

R 076183

JPRS 82714

24 January 1983

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Latin America Report

No. 2636

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2636

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EXPANSION OF THERMOELECTRIC PLANT NEAR COMPLETION

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Oct 82 p 9

[Text] The work to expand the San Nicolas thermoelectric power plant is now entering the initial phase of starting operations at the plant. This plant has four 75-MW turbogenerators, making a total of 300 MW. These turbogenerators were installed in 1955, and the recent expansion consists of adding a 350-MW turbogenerator, along with its boiler. This equipment will operate using either coal or oil, the fuels traditionally used in this plant, and in the auxiliary systems. When the expansion is in operation, the plant will have more than doubled its energy-generating capacity.

The Water and Electrical Energy Agency hired the GIE [Gruppo Industrie Elettro Meccaniche per Impianti All'Esterio], acting in a consortium with Ormas, as its prime contractor, and the consortium then hired SADE, S.A., as a subcontractor. GIE has provided the main boiler, made by Franco Tosi, the turbogroup unit--a monobloc unit consisting of the turbine, cyclothermal unit and its equipment, supplied by Ansaldo, and an alternator and excitation unit, made by Marelli--and the main transformer, of 412 MVA, also made by Ansaldo.

The Argentine firm provided the basic engineering, part of the detailed engineering plans, and worked on construction in the electrical, mechanical, and civil aspects of the plant. It also prepared the final plan for the plant's operational instrumentation, and prepared the general documentation, including the preliminary programming in bar diagrams (Gantt) and the detailed programming for the project by the critical path method, which it has periodically updated.

The expansion of the San Nicolas thermoelectric plant has been planned ever since the plant was first designed. Space has been left for the expansion of the machine room, for the expansion of the auxiliary building, and for the installation of the new

boiler and its related equipment, which make up the main section of this project. Furthermore, the earlier planning had taken into account future needs, such as water, so it was not necessary to build a new water intake in the river, since the old intake had been properly sized. In addition, progress made since the plant was first designed means that much more powerful generating equipment can be installed now than what would have been possible in the beginning.

The expansion of the existing machine room required the construction of a building with a floor space of 40 by 54 meters, with a height of 30 meters, made of a conventional reinforced concrete structure with columns and beams on a foundation of precast pilings. It has metal service floor structures, and its roof is of precast elements; the main beams are 38 meters in length and each weighs 95 tons; the beams are prestressed. The roof of the machine room was placed on by using two cranes with capacities of 125 and 150 tons, in just 7 days.

The foundation of the turbogroup is independent of the foundation of the machine room in which it is housed; it consists of a rigid frame 9 meters high resting on large-diameter pilings. Its cap, with a volume of 2,000 cubic meters was poured in concrete in a single stage, with the temperature kept away from the point of becoming brittle by the use of incorporated ice.

The auxiliary building, which contains electrical equipment, compressors, conveyor belts, etc., along with the command and control room from which the turbogroup is activated and the auxiliary equipment is monitored, has five levels and is 18.50 meters high. Its floor space measures 10 by 63 meters, and its reinforced concrete structure is of a conventional type.

The work done on the boiler can be summarized as follows.

The boiler can operate by using either oil or coal (the plant uses coal from Rio Turbio); it is pulverized before being placed in the burners. Both fuels need air to operate; air is injected by the action of two ventilators, attached at the base.

In accordance with Argentina's new fuel use policies, the consortium is preparing an adaptation so that there will also be an option of using natural gas.

The boiler is placed in a special structure, measuring 40 by 40 meters at the base and 60 meters in height, made of solid web steel sections; it rests on precast pilings. The same structure also supports metal service floor structures.

Combustion gases leaving the boiler are sent to the electrostatic precipitator, built with a metal structure. There, suspended solids that would otherwise have remained in the gases going to the stack are eliminated.

Two ventilators are placed in front of the stack; these fans accelerate the circulation of gases toward the stack, which is the most visible part of the plant when viewed from a distance. It is 120 meters tall and is cylindrical in shape, with an average diameter of 9.60 meters. It was built of reinforced concrete with traveling forms. During construction, which went on day and night, its verticality was monitored by systems using lasers.

Among the work covered in the contract is an ash treatment plant, which was built based on technology from the Italian firm, Termokimik. Its function is to treat solid residues of the fuel in order to eliminate them in an appropriate manner. It has a trough for heavy ash, in the form of rods; silos for light ash; an electronics building, and pipes.

This facility contains a fire-prevention system for the entire plant, based on fire-prevention standards in use all over the world.

The San Nicolas facility covers an area of approximately 60,000 square meters. It includes a number of features, such as the coal mills and hoppers, made of metal; the water treatment plant, with its main building, a neutralization basin, sludge settling basin, and various tanks; mechanical and electrical connections between the different buildings and equipment; these are placed in underground ducts made of reinforced concrete; 8,000 square meters of pavement; auxiliary buildings, and the facility for housing the oil pump.

It was also necessary to provide for the transmission of the energy supplied by the new generator. For this purpose a 220-kV transformer station was built inside the plant; it has footings, handling and safety elements, gantries and cable ducts. Outside the plant, in Ramallo, where the connection is made with the national power system, the existing substation has been expanded to handle this new power supply.

The equipment installed by the SADE for the San Nicolas plant expansion program amounts to approximately 15,000 tons. The metal structures used about 2,500 tons of steel. The pipes used about 1,500 tons of materials. The main boiler weighs almost 10,000 tons, including its support structure.

This project will be turned over complete, ready for immediate use.

PAPER PROTESTS DECISION TO BURN GAS AT THERMOELECTRIC PLANT

Bahia Blanca LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 21 Oct 82 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Thermoelectric Plant: Gas Instead of Coal

Just a few hundred meters apart, in the Ingeniero White zone, Bahia Blanca displays two large monuments to the lack of foresight and confusion with which the bureaucracy customarily handles major projects. A few days ago we discussed the changing options with which the satellite plants of the petrochemical pole are facing an uncertain future. Now we will discuss the thermoelectric superplant and the confusion surrounding the fuel that is to be used to power the plant.

The announcement that the plant will start by burning natural gas and not Rio Turbio fuel, as was originally planned, revealed a truth that had been kept concealed until then. We will hope that some day YCF [Government Coal Deposits] will offer a clear, coherent, detailed, and above all else, truthful account of what has happened here. In the meantime, we will remind our readers of some of the background of this issue.

Behind the decision to burn Rio Turbio coal in the Ingeniero White superplant could be seen a motivation based on a clear geopolitical strategy: the wisdom of furthering Patagonia's development and filling in the large areas devoid of population along the borders. In order to supply Ingeniero White, YCF would have to at least triple its production. It has been estimated that this project by itself would consume 1,600,000 tons of coal a year. YCF's current production is about 700,000 tons a year, which goes primarily to SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services] and the San Nicolas steel mill.

increasing the coal-mining capacity would significantly aid the development of the Rio Turbio area. At the same time the railway capacity between Rio Turbio and the planned coal port in Punta Loyola would be expanded. That project, too, was based on the vast expansion of coal consumption to be caused by the Ingeniero White superplant.

The decision to burn coal was not cheap. If YCF had spoken out in the beginning about its inability to develop the Rio Turbio production, a great deal of money could have been saved. For example, perhaps it would not have been necessary to purchase technology abroad and to buy specially designed boilers so they could burn pulverized coal. Nor would it have been necessary to build coal-pulverization mills in the superplant area; these mills will now remain idle. Nor would we have had to spend the money to make the costly connection between the plant and the General Daniel Cerri gas pipeline, in order to provide the fuel that the plant will now use.

But in addition, aside from technical and economic considerations, there are other irritants in this bureaucratic handling of the problem, aspects which bring up an ethical issue. This is the neglectful way in which omissions are covered up with explanations which carry with them a considerable dose of distorted truth. The attempt to justify this change in fuel now by saying that it will be a way of making use of our superabundant gas reserves seems the sort of excuse that a child might invent. The claim is that they had no indication of the extent of these gas reserves when the coal-powered project was first planned.

Why don't they tell the people the truth directly? The super plant will not be able to start by burning coal because a government enterprise was unable to fulfill the contract. In addition, the fallacy of the argument about the extraordinary abundance of gas supplies will be revealed next winter, whenever any of YCF's customers tries to buy gas. It is true that new gas fields have been found and that Argentina has reserves that should last for the next 60 years. But it is also true that the chronic shortage of gas during the critical winter months is caused by an inadequate transport capacity for that fuel.

These are some of our thoughts aroused by what has happened about the fuel for the Ingeniero White thermoelectric plant. And this is a situation that is repeated time after time in any area in which the state is involved. Now it would be

appropriate and instructive for the public if YCF would explain in an intelligible manner, giving the names of the responsible officials, why it has been unable to fulfill its contract for the Ingeniero White plant. YCF should also explain why it has waited to the last minute and answered with repeated evasions whenever the press questioned it about this matter.

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CSO: 3348/86

YCF INTENSIFIES COAL EXPLORATION RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Nov 82 p 9

[Text] In order to intensify coal exploration in the far south of Argentina, in the area known as the southern basin, and to find new coal fields in the Santa Cruz province area, YCF [Government Coal Deposits] is to begin a geological research program, conducted under the auspices of the IBRD and the department of energy. The program will last for 4 seasons, from 1982 to 1986, and will require an approximate investment of \$20 million.

The program will be oriented toward the following basic objectives:

- a) To adjust, define, and expand the coal reserves of the central southern sector of the field in Santa Cruz province.
- b) To inventory selectively the coal reserves in the area of the southern basin, evaluating the primary possibilities of the fields or areas selected during the exploration sequence.

These basic objectives will be carried out in the Rio Turbio area and in the northwestern and northeastern areas of the southern basin, as shown on the map of Santa Cruz province.

To carry out this job, YCF, through an international bidding process, hired a Spanish consultant, selected from 10 high-quality German, English, Canadian, and American firms.

ENADIMSA [Adaro National Mining Research Company, S.A.] is a member of the National Institute of Industries of Spain, and has worked on mining research, especially coal research, for

Map of the Province of Santa Cruz, Argentina, showing the area of study. The map includes geographical features like rivers (Rio Grande, Rio Bermejo, Rio Paraguay), lakes (Lago de San Carlos, Lago de San Juan), and towns (El Cerrito, El Cerrito, El Cerrito). The area of study is marked with a hatched pattern and labeled 'II'. A legend in the bottom right corner indicates 'REFERENCIAS: (1) Area de la Cuenca Austral, (2) Areas a estudiar'. The map is framed by a grid with latitude and longitude coordinates.

Key:

- This firm is to work in association with an Argentine consultant with proven experience in major studies--Tecnoproyectos.

The complexity of the work to be done required YCF to issue separate bid proposals for the various jobs to be done: hiring drilling services, the purchase of drilling equipment for depths of up to 1,000 meters, drills and bits; vehicles suitable for field work, and all the items essential for such a research program.

Ten Argentine geologists will work along with the Spanish geologists and mining engineers. Of the 10 Argentines, seven will do field work. This is an opportunity for our professionals to acquire experience in the use of modern mining technology.

During the 4 years of this program, geological reconnaissance surveys will be made of an area of approximately 30,000 square kilometers, including stratigraphic profiles, petrographic studies, and the beginning of research work in levels containing coal.

The magnitude of the work to be done has led to a drilling plan with a total of 59 drillings scheduled, with a total length of approximately 31,500 meters. During each drilling geophysical recordings will be made, in order to obtain much more complete information on the possibilities of this coal field.

Official sources in YCF have mentioned the growing importance of a qualitative and quantitative knowledge of this natural resource, whose relative impact in the energy field has still not been clearly determined. The reserves of the Rio Turbio field, the only reserves measured to date, while they amount to nearly 600 million tons, are not sufficient to meet our energy demand in the future, when our reserves of gas and oil begin to diminish.

The YCF officials also described the site where the state enterprise is working, and dealing with harsh climate conditions, in an ongoing struggle against the great distances to and from centers of consumption and supply.

Such projects, say the YCF officials, will help to fill in the great empty spaces of Argentina, and with the presence of a stable population of nearly 11,000 people, will establish a foothold, giving us true national sovereignty of these areas which are often under dispute.

If the results of this program are positive, they will lead to a great deal of economic development for the Patagonian

region and an increased possibility of exporting Argentine coal. For this reason, YCF is continuing the construction of the new port at Punta Loyola, which will provide access for larger ships, and thus increase access to foreign markets.

7679

CSO: 3348/86

ENERGY SECRETARIAT TO ENCOURAGE INCREASE IN GAS CONSUMPTION

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 26 Oct 82 p 10

[Text] The energy secretariat is studying a program to encourage an increased consumption of natural gas, and a more rational use of fuels for transport. This task has been entrusted to three commissions, which are to complete their work in periods from 30 to 90 days.

Natural Gas

One committee is to study a greater and more rapid use of gas, replacing other fuels, particularly in large industrial complexes. It will operate within the undersecretariat of fuels and is to reach its conclusions in 30 days.

Transport

A second committee is to analyze the rational use of fuels for transporting freight and passengers. It is believed that this sector accounts for a considerable percentage of the consumption of petroleum derivatives, particularly in Greater Buenos Aires, and that this consumption has a negative impact on our balance of payments.

The committee, to be composed of officials from the secretariat of energy and the undersecretariats of transport and technology of the ministry of public works, is to make a proposal for immediate measures within 20 days, and then draft proposals for mid-term steps within an added 70 days.

Automobiles

A third committee--also acting within the undersecretariat of fuels--is to report within 30 days on the use of alternative fuel sources for automobiles, such as gas, methanol, and biomass alcohol.

HOUSE DEBATES LOAN FOR MOBIL PURCHASE; OIL INCREASE SEEN

Increase in Crude Sales

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

Crude oil sales in Barbados have risen by two million dollars in the last five months over the first six months of the year.

Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams told the House of Assembly yesterday that since the Government take-over of the Woodbourne oil field last August, the National Petroleum Corporation had sold \$8.7 million in crude oil to the local refinery as compared to sales from January to June which amounted to \$6.5 million.

He was moving a Resolution seeking approval for Government to borrow US\$13 million from Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, the Barbados National Bank and associated banks to purchase the assets of Mobil Exploration Barbados Incorporated and the common stock of Mobil Exploration Barbados Limited.

Mr. Adams said Government's initial aim would be to produce at least one-third of the country's petroleum requirements locally.

He noted that of the seven wells drilled since August, five were producing satisfactorily. The cost of drilling has been reduced from Bds\$700 000 to less than \$500 000 and the time of drilling has also been reduced from the average of one month to 18 days.

He said that from July to October the oilfield turned out an average of 23 964 barrels of oil monthly compared to the 17 359 barrels which it turned out

monthly prior to the take-over.

October was a record month with 32 880 barrels being turned out and it is estimated that some 30 000 barrels were produced during November.

Mr. Adams said that it was hoped that the National Petroleum Corporation would be self-financing by the middle of next year.

The Prime Minister said that Government had no immediate plans to go into major exploration which he described as a "chancy business" which was not within the financial resources of the National Petroleum Corporation at the moment.

The drilling operations at

Woodbourne were designed to maximise production but there were no plans to overuse the oil field, he said.

Mr. Adams explained that further exploration would have to await the planned joint venture between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago in the area of petroleum.

In respect of this venture, Mr. Adams told the House that negotiations were still under way.

He said that some changes had taken place since the venture was first discussed in 1977 and the oil business in Trinidad and Tobago was not as booming as before.

He noted, however, that a Trinidadian company — Well Services Limited — was responsible for drilling at Woodbourne and goodwill

existed on both sides although there was still some distance in concepts.

Mr. Adams told the House that the purchase price of US\$12 million to Mobil covered the purchase of spare parts, materials including equipment, physical plant including vehicles, production and exploration rights and oil then in existing wells waiting to be brought to the surface.

He said that no more than US\$600 000 had been paid for prospective oil assets and that Government had already realised this sum from the production of new oil wells drilled since the take-over.

Charge of Gov't Overpayment

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Government has not analysed the situation of oil exploration properly and it was over-paying by millions of dollars.

This was yesterday stated in the House of Assembly by Dr. Richie Haynes, MP, while speaking on a resolution to approve the borrowing of US\$13 million from the Barbados National Bank, the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, and the associated banks for the purpose of financing the purchase of the assets of Mobil Exploration Barbados Incorporated.

Dr. Haynes said that he was not challenging the principle of the buying, he was challenging that due care was not taken to look at the international markets to look at the price.

He said that the competition which existed in the price it would have fetched in 1978 or 79, it could not fetch today.

"Government, having taken this step, would have to look carefully at the cost benefit analyses of what is taking place. In order to maximise the potential of the acquisition, it is necessary to have a level of technological advice available to get, to make it a viable project", Dr. Haynes added.

He said that the BNB (Barbados National Bank) had no experience for loans in the oil industry and one did not know how the loan would affect the Bank.

The MP described it as "an ill-timed attempt" to try to buy out Mobil.

He said that he was concerned about the relationship between Government and Morgan Trust Company, adding that there was the

question of rate of return of the investment and nothing had been said on that matter.

He said further that the

proper value for the loan should be based on the current market value.

Dr. Haynes said that he was looking at the returns for the demand of oil in place of the international recession.

He added that there were those banks that had no expertise in oil activities and had lent money, and as a consequence, those banks found themselves in a lot of trouble.

According to Dr. Haynes, Mobil Oil could not sell their equipment to any oil company in the present situation.

He said that looking at the international demand for drilling equipment and for oil exploration in the face of the fact that OPEC countries were making an attempt to control the price, the only country that Mobil could find was "innocent Barbados."

Dr. Haynes said that when one looked at the oil assets of the company, Barbados was paying more than it should pay.

Prediction of Increased Output

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Dec 82 p 2

[Text] Mr Aaron Truss, chairman of the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC), said that indications are that by the middle of next year, Barbados will be producing 1 200 barrels of oil per day.

He said that amount will be accelerated in 1984 to 1 400 barrels and by 1985 to 1 450 barrels per day.

He was yesterday speaking in the House of Assembly on a resolution to approve the borrowing of US\$13 million from the Barbados National Bank (BNB), the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company and associated banks, for the purpose of financing the purchase of the assets of Mobil Exploration Barbados Incorporated.

Mr. Truss said also that since Government had taken

over Mobil, Barbados was producing an average of 1 000 barrels per day. Government took over Mobil in July this year.

According to Mr. Truss, Mobil had co-operated with the NPC and with the Government of Barbados and has assisted in every possible way.

He said that Government is expected to receive funds from the Venezuelan Investment Fund which will assist in the initial deficit of the programme over the next three years.

In addition, he said that some of the funds would also go towards expanding the distribution of natural gas to St. Michael and Christ Church.

Mr. Truss said that there was not enough money at the NPC to do those things which it wanted to do.

He told the House at OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), was very concerned about the English speaking Caribbean and plans were being made to make representation to get assistance from that body as well as from OLADE.

The chairman said that he believed that the resolution "is a good thing" for the people of Barbados.

He added that it was shown in the few months that the people who are involved in the project, have the expertise and in addition, Petro Canada, had sent people to train local personnel in Barbados.

Mr. Truss said that it was not possible to talk about a five-year development plan without knowing what the reserves are.

However, he said that when the Barbados National Oil Company is established one could then tell what the reserves are, and it was at that stage that a five-year development plan would be planned.

CSO: 3298/217

BRIEFS

PEMEX ORDERS SHIPS--The Mexican Petroleum Company PEMEX has just ordered five new ships destined for the transport of petroleum products. The order was placed at a local shipbuilding yard which will use 70 per cent Mexican materials. [Text] [Paris LES ECHOS in French 3 Jan 83 p 6]

CSO: 3219/25

BRIEFS

GASOLINE SUPPLIES--Kingstown, St. Vincent, Saturday (CANA)--The four Texaco petrol stations in St. Vincent, which have been without gasoline and diesel for close to two months now, while government considers a new pricing formula proposed by the Trinidad-based regional office for the company, are once again receiving supplies of gasoline. Texaco official Edward Limchoy, said here that his company had decided to resume supplies of gasoline to the stations pending a government decision on the matter. Mr. Limchoy said he had just concluded talks with the Ministry of Trade here on proposals for a new pricing formula, but gave no details. The government only two months ago approved increases in the price of both gasoline and diesel here, but this has not quite matched the Texaco proposals. Gasoline is now being sold here between \$5.60 and \$5 a gallon, with diesel ranging from \$4.85 a gallon to \$5.14 a gallon. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Dec 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/239

OILFIELD WORKERS ACCUSE TEXACO OF ECONOMIC DESTABILIZATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Dec 82 p 34

[Advertisement]

[Text]

FELLOW CITIZENS,

A cloud of uncertainty hangs over the future of our country today. Few people in the country may know or appreciate the seriousness of the crisis, and therefore out of its commitment to the nation's welfare the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union makes this statement today. We hope that it lays to rest once and for all the many myths that have been deliberately created to confuse the masses of the people as to who the real agents of chaos are. We must know who really is holding this country to ransom.

Over the past three (3) weeks multinational Texaco has been bringing to a climax the policy it began five (5) years ago to systematically end its stay in Trinidad and Tobago. The country has been informed about the sending home of some ninety (90) apprentices and other persons in training. The country has been periodically informed of the fluctuations in refinery throughput at Pointe-a-Pierre, which today stands at some 50,000 barrels per day. The country has been informed of the decision by Texaco to cease the importation of crude oil for the refinery.

Earlier in the year we were told about the attempt by Texaco and successfully fought off by the Union to send some people home with full pay. We have been told of Texaco's fervent wish to have the retirement age reduced from 65 to 60 which would immediately send over 800 men home with a further 400 to go in the next two years. We have heard about retrenchment taking place in the oil industry with over thirty contracting companies in the oil industry being forced to send home all or part of their workforce. And more retrenchment is expected as Texaco, Tesoro and Amoco (all multi-nationals) reduce their operations further. But there is a lot the country does not know.

Neither Texaco nor the Government has seen it fit to inform the nation about the events of the past two weeks that have brought this country into the most serious predicament it has been in since 1973.

Texaco's land producing operations have been grinding to a halt. Most well servicing work has been halted in the producing fields. All drilling work has come to a standstill. Several productive wells have been capped down, or production reduced by a number of methods (reducing pulley size on pumping jacks; reducing gas flow to artificial lift system, poor well servicing work etc.) One particularly promising well in the Barrackpore area which was being drilled was not completed thereby denying the potential production of crude oil. Texaco has unilaterally introduced one shift operations (as opposed to a three shift operation) in the producing fields thereby causing hundreds of workers to be idle on the job while much work to be done goes untouched.

The net result of this is the slow strangulation of this country's economy.

In the first place as crude production falls so does Government tax take. And it must not be forgotten that the oil industry accounts for over

65% of total Government revenue. Secondly, as the contractor workers, casual and temporary workers and apprentices get laid off there are now two thousand (2,000) less breadwinners in the country. That is a potential two thousand families who have lost their means of survival. It also means two thousand customers of shops, parlours, the market, taxis, cinemas, groceries etc. who will either be no longer buying goods or buying at a much reduced rate. The slowdown in activity has also meant that Texaco and contractors are buying less oilfields and hardware equipment etc. Business places throughout the South are therefore losing sale and some have already begun to send their workers home. More retrenchment, more families without income, less business for all, less income tax and NIS money for the Government. Everybody is suffering except the oil companies.

If the picture painted of the oilfields looks grim, then that of the refinery is even worse. The present situation is this. Texaco has stopped the importation of crude oil. This leaves Texaco with only five days of imported crude in their storage tanks. Of the 50,000 barrels per day that is being currently refined 28,000 barrels come from Texaco's local production and their 1/3 share of their Trinmar production, 12,000 barrels are being obtained from Trintoc and 10,000 barrels are from the limited quantity of imported crude in the storage tanks.

When in five days time the imported crude runs out the refinery throughput will drop to 40,000 barrels per day. Additionally the 12,000 barrels from Trintoc is not guaranteed, as Trintoc themselves may require that crude for the Point Fortin refinery. Given the way the Texaco refinery is set up it will not be possible to run the refinery on only 20 odd thousand barrels per day. The refinery therefore is on the brink of being closed!

The implications would be catastrophic. Firstly 4,000 workers would be put on the bread-line. More families out of income. More business places will close, etc. The producing fields will themselves have to be closed down as there would be no outlet for the crude oil. More disaster.

Government revenue will be severely reduced and foreign exchange earnings from the export of refined products will fall off badly. Employment will be affected throughout the country the Government service in particular will be hard hit as lower revenues will be unable to sustain the large public service wage bill.

Other aspects of the country's functioning will be dramatically affected. Gasolene, aviation fuel and LPG (cooking gas) will be in short supply. Trintoc's refinery cannot supply LPG, produces very little gasolene or aviation fuel. Nor can the Trintoc refinery increase its production of these items since it is an old, outdated refinery with limited plant capability. Neither will the planned upgrading of the Trintoc refinery assist since this project will take 3 - 4 years to get on stream. With the Government facing a huge deficit budget this project (cost of over \$1 billion TT) may not even see the light of day.

To keep the country running the Government will have to import gasolene and LPG from abroad thereby further worsening the balance of payments situation, and fueling inflation since the cost of imported petroleum products will certainly be higher than those produced locally. More expensive gasolene will mean higher transport costs for the travelling public and businessmen who will more than likely pass that cost to the consumer.

Anyway one takes it the prospect of a closed Pointe-a-Pierre Refinery spells CRISIS for Trinidad and Tobago.

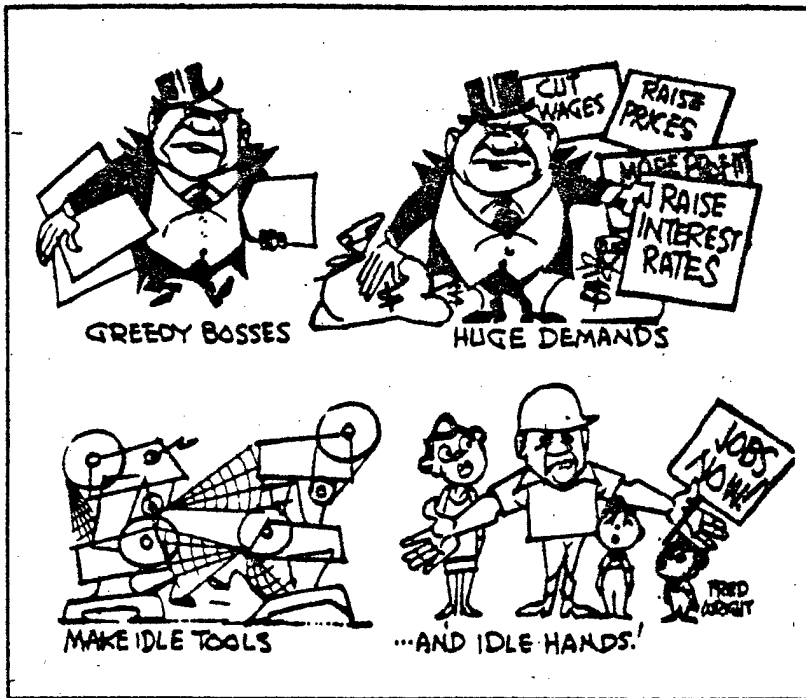
The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union is of the view that the escalation of events in the oil industry has been timed to coincide with the festive season and with the expected Budget speech.

Texaco and Amoco have for some time been pressing for a reduction in taxation. In 1981 the Government amended the Petroleum Taxes Act which amendment resulted in a considerable tax ease for the oil companies. In 1976 the Government introduced an incentive programme for land production. This also gave back money to the oil companies. Yet the companies want to have their cake and eat it. And in order to get what they want the multinationals are putting pressure on the workers, the Union, the Government and the nation.

The breakdown of the Tesoro negotiations over the issue of how much should be paid is causing a cloud of uncertainty to hang over the heads of Tesoro workers. The insistence by Texaco that the retirement age be reduced, the sending home of apprentices, the reduction of refinery throughput, and the retrenchment of contractors has caused insecurity to be the order of the day amongst all Texaco workers.

And the reduction in refinery throughput has already caused a shortage of both LPG and aviation fuel. National Petroleum has been importing large quantities of these two products from Venezuela for the past several weeks! Texaco has also organised the product mix out of the refinery in such a way that at any given point in time only some two to three days of gasoline are in their storage tanks. A brief dislocation of the refinery could therefore within hours result in a shortage of gasoline in the country!

Texaco has also been systematically emptying its tanks of product and shipping products to the U.S. and elsewhere. They therefore have little left in Trinidad. Recently too, massive transshipment of crude oil has been taking place at Pointe-a-Pierre. This transshipment involves the unloading of crude from the Middle East on board VLCC's (very



large crude carriers) to smaller tankers capable of entering U.S. ports. None of this crude came ashore as the entire operations are carried on several miles out in the Gulf of Paria. By ensuring an adequate reserve of crude for its U.S. refineries Texaco can close down the Pointe-a-Pierre Harbour with no adverse effects to itself or the U.S. market it serves.

The squeeze on the country is well and truly on. The Government is being forced in the corner by the oil companies. Texaco and Tesoro are pursuing their interests. And Amoco sits on and controls 75% of this country's natural gas production. With the flick of a switch the supply of gas to T&TEC and to important industries (ISCOTT, Fertrin, Tringen, Lever Bros. Alstons brick factory etc.) can come to a sudden end. Texaco claims it cannot or will not import crude oil while Amoco continues to export all of its product. There is no rationale or logic to the pattern of production and refining in the oil industry save and except that each company does its own thing to suit individual interests. The national interest is non-existent.

This makes a total mockery of twenty years of political independence and six years of Republic status. We are reminded of the statement by Sir Arthur Lewis who in 1939 wrote an account of the 1937 insurrection in Trinidad and Tobago, when he said, *"it is often said that the real rulers of Trinidad are not the Governor and his legislative Council, but the representatives of the oil industry."*

Little has changed from then to now.

Texaco's actions are an affront to the sovereignty of Trinidad and Tobago. The Union has taken a firm stand. Since 1978 we analyzed what Texaco was up to, and predicted the eventual outcome. We campaigned for Texaco to go because we knew that they were planning to leave eventually. We warned during that campaign that the country needed to organise to control the oil industry – the most commanding of the commanding heights of the economy. Had the Government taken heed then today we would have a properly organised oil industry, capable of riding out the so-called recession. Certainly we would not be in a position to have Texaco and Tesoro dictate the terms of their leaving to us nationals to whom the oil belongs in the first place. That is the penalty the nation is paying for the rejection of the OWTU's projections.

It is clearly time that the Government takes a stand. We have had our fill of Enquiries and closed door inter-ministerial committees. As a nation we cannot bow down and accede to Texaco's dictates, any decision to grant further tax concessions to Texaco, any agreement to allow retrenchment in whatever form is tantamount to the betrayal of the nation. Texaco has its interests to pursue. We must pursue ours.

Fellow citizens, in 1973 this country was in crisis. There were six (6) weeks of foreign exchange left. Unemployment had reached a new height.

Social tensions were evident. Right-wing forces within the PNM were prominent. Under these conditions the late Prime Minister resigned and in his resignation speech to his party convention he launched a scathing attack on the multinational corporations whom Dr. Williams accused of trying to impose their will on third world countries.

Today we may have larger reserves but the situation is no less serious. All the other elements are present in this crisis. Economic and political destabilisation is on the order of the day. Additionally widespread unemployment will cause many other social implications (*crime, use of drugs, breakdown from family life, prostitution, mental illness, suicides etc.*) The entire country is being swept into CRISIS!

The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union calls on the Government to take a clear stand. The country must be informed of all developments with Texaco, Tesoro and AMOCO. The Budget Speech must not concede to the multinationals. There should be a halt to all further retrenchment. The entire oil industry must be nationalised and re-organised on a proper basis. Nothing less will save the country from disaster.

In keeping with our commitment to the national interest the OWTU has initiated a Day of Solidarity for Saturday December 11th 1982. (Human Rights Day). The Day of Solidarity will take place in Port of Spain. We invite our fellow citizens – workers and their families, men, women and children to join us in defence of the right to work. And in defence of the independence, sovereignty and self-respect of this nation!

We publicly call on the authorities to allow the planned demonstration to take place. The workers have not gone on strike, nor have they broken any law. The workers have not undermined the economy by taking unproductive action. It is Texaco that is guilty of these things. Texaco has in fact gone "on strike".

CSO: 3298/218

NICARAGUAN, COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES HOLD TALKS

Meeting in San Carlos

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 11 Dec 82 p 13A

[Article by Carlos Hernandez]

[Text] San Carlos--Sandinist troops quartered in the [Nicaraguan] border town of San Carlos expect an attack before the end of the year, according to reports given Costa Rican officials who for the last 2 days have been visiting there. Representatives of the Rural Assistance Guards, and of Carlos Municipality [in Costa Rica] went to Nicaraguan territory in an effort to ease tensions and strengthen friendship between the border area.

Alejandro Guevara Silva, the Sandinist commander and military chief in that area, admitted that they are momentarily expecting an attack by groups opposing the Marxist course of the Nicaraguan revolution.

They therefore requested the national authorities for increased vigilance in that region. They even submitted documents with details about the places where there presumably are clandestine training centers of anti-Sandinist groups.

The Rural officials took over the responsibility of acquiring this information. The Sandinists went into details about why, for security reasons, they will enforce strict control of the traffic of vessels and people along the San Juan River boundary.

They recognized the Costa Rican right to free navigation along that river but they said they will maintain vigilance to avoid surprises.

Commander Guevara admitted during the talks that in his area alone there are 100 Cuban military advisors as well as Italians, Germans and North Koreans.

Officials of both countries agreed that the talks were useful. This is the first time that San Carlos Municipal representatives have made an official visit to San Carlos, Nicaragua.

The trip of these officials took place at a time when Civil Guard patrols at Los Chiles were making careful searches of all vehicles for weapons.

Sandinists Admit Struggle

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Dec 82 p 10A

[Article by Carlos Hernandez]

[Text] Although the border town of San Carlos in Nicaragua is calm, Aljeandro Guevara Silva, the Sandinist regional commander, admitted that the internal struggle is intensifying.

He described what is happening in areas like Zelaya Norte and others on the Honduran border where dozens of people die every day as a result of the confrontations.

Guevara made this admission last Friday after he had met with San Carlos municipal authorities who had agreed to visit him informally. San Carlos Rural Guard chiefs Gilverto Orozcao and Fernando Villalobos met with Guevara on Thursday.

Both meetings were arranged by Jim Medrano, the contact man between the Sandinists and the local authorities, and by Maria Kautz, Nicaraguan consul in that area.

Representatives of Los Chiles Municipality, another border canton, were also invited to attend the meeting in which the San Carlos officials participated.

However, the Los Chiles representatives refused the invitation. Gilberto Gomez and Reynaldo Jurado, Los Chiles municipality executive and municipal president respectively, said they saw no reason for going to Nicaraguan territory.

For the San Carlos Municipality two members of the town council, both property owners, attended the meeting, one from Liberacion, Municipal President Guillermo Saborio, and the other from Unidad. Three other members of each party also went to the meeting.

Seven councilmen did not attend, alleging "security reasons" for not going.

During his conversation with the Costa Rican delegation, Commander Guevara said that this meeting could be used as a model for how relations between the two countries should be carried out.

The delegations endeavored to "break the ice" in their relations and Municipal President Saborio, at the end of the trip, said that "distorted information," on the situation in Nicaragua is given out here whereas the truth is otherwise. They agreed that in the future, cultural delegations from San Carlos will go to the Nicaraguan town and groups from there will come to make presentations here.

Soldiers Everywhere

During the trip large numbers of soldiers with modern weapons were observed in that locality.

Commander Guevara justified this by stating that attacks by opposition groups were imminent. He did not hesitate to accuse dissident Commander Eden Pastora Gomez of being one of the instigators of aggression against Nicaragua.

Guevara did not deny his Marxist-Leninist convictions and admitted that they have redoubled their vigilance. Even 10-year old children are seen on the streets carrying rifles which originated in the Socialist Bloc countries.

Guevara said that the Sandinists have asked our authorities for increased vigilance on our side of the border because there cannot be peace in the area as long as anti-Sandinist activities are supposedly condoned on this side of the border.

9204

CSO: 3248/379

CALL FOR CARIBBEAN ORGANIZATION TO REPRESENT MEDIA WORKERS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 27 Nov 82 p 6

[Text] EDITOR of the Caribbean Contact, Ricky Singh, Sunday called for the formation of an organisation to represent media personnel in the region. He was speaking at the second session on 'Arts and the Communications Media', at the Intellectual and Cultural Workers conference held in the Dome, Grand Anse, last weekend.

He said that only when practising journalists stopped behaving as "crabs in a barrel" would they function as true professionals. Until then, workers in the communication media would remain fragmented and manipulated by their respective employers.

He called for the creation of a media through which the aspirations of the people could be transmitted, and which they could own through

bodies such as their trade unions.

Leader of the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement, Tim Hector, also felt that it was the task of Caribbean intellectuals to create a new institution controlling newspapers, news agencies, radio, television and video to challenge what he called the national middle class media. If they failed, he said, they would fail to lay the basis for the socialist state which is the only viable solution for the Caribbean people.

Speaking about those who controlled the Caribbean media, Hector said they could not be called a national bourgeoisie, since they put imperialist interests before national ones. They were not even bourgeois, he said, since they allowed themselves to be dictated to. An

example of this was their carrying identical anti-Grenada editorials in response to imperialist demands.

The national bourgeoisie in the Caribbean has no history of struggle, Hector said. They took no part in the struggle for independence, an indication that they lacked patriotism. What little democracy existed in the Caribbean, had not come through them, but through the struggles of the working people.

Yet, through the media, the national bourgeoisie always calls on governments to use force against workers.

The development of the news agency has followed the capitalist pattern, Hector said, in that the world was shared up among them. They have had a long history of sensational reporting in the colonies, he said, and were created to serve the interest of capital.

The conference called for the democratisation of the media and the establishment of a commission to make recommendations as how

best this can be achieved.

It also called for the establishment of an international press service in the region to compete with the big press agencies serving imperialism's interests; and the exploration of possibilities of a regional radio or radio services, and the formation of a federation of Caribbean artists.

Delegates suggested requesting Radio Free Grenada, and other radio stations in Cuba, Nicaragua and any other progressive radio stations which may exist, to broadcast programmes made in the region and translated into various languages.

They also called for taking the theatre to the people outside of theatre buildings and securing material support for projects for actors and performers.

Intellectual and cultural workers should not be detached from the social and economic struggles taking place in Caribbean societies, the conference felt, but

should consciously and deliberately participate in the struggle for national liberation and against imperialism and oppression.

They should also struggle for social justice and the achievements of societies in which the right to work, good housing, social security, and education and all the material and spiritual benefits which a "caring and just society can provide."

In the struggle to achieve these ends and "defeat imperialists' attempts to dominate the world, intellectual and cultural workers must be "unequivocally committed to the defence of the Cuban, Grenadian, Nicaraguan and Surinamese Revolutions" and the advancement of the causes of anti-imperialism and defend the interests of the working class including farmers, agricultural, manual and mental workers.

[Editor's Note: The major portion of this story, attributed to CANA, was also carried in the Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS of 25 November 1982, page 3.]

CSO: 3298/219

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CARICOM MINISTERS MEETING'S AGENDA REPORTED

FL102033 Bridgetown CANA in English 2003 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 10 Jan, CANA--The Caribbean Community (Caricom) common market council of ministers open their meeting Thursday with a wide-ranging agenda that includes a proposal for increased financing for the Liat Airline, intra-regional trade and a successor for Caricom secretariat head, Dr Kurleigh King.

A Caricom secretariat statement said the draft budget and work programme for the secretariat's work this year would be placed before the council for approval.

The 22d meeting of the Caribbean Common Market Council of Ministers "will be discussing the reports on the 27th meeting of officials of the agricultural marketing protocol as well as the 17th meeting of the conference of oils and fats," the secretariat said.

"Regarding external trade and economic relations, the council will be looking into the matter of an increase in the resources earmarked for Liat in the Caribbean regional programme under the Fifth European Development Fund (EDF)," the release said.

These funds, the release said, are for the purchase of new equipment for Liat, owned by Caricom governments.

"Council will also be giving consideration to the preparations that must be undertaken for the start of negotiations for a successor arrangement to the second convention of Lome," the secretariat added.

Lome is a trade and aid pact between African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European community.

The release said a report on the outcome of the recent ministerial meeting of the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) will be put before the council.

Particular attention will be paid to the need to co-ordinate action against protectionism, the secretariat added. "Also of importance on the agenda is the matter of identifying a candidate to be recommended to heads of government for appointment as the new secretary general of Caricom in succession to Dr Kurleigh King, who demits office in the near future," the release said.

S. KOREAN ENVOY, VISITING ANTIGUA, PROMISES CARIBBEAN AID

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Dec 82 p 3

[Text] ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Friday (CANA) — South Korea is to improve the level of its economic and other aid to the Eastern Caribbean next year in such areas as fisheries, agriculture and tourism, Ambassador Bok Hylung Lee said.

Mr. Lee, who is based in Santo Domingo, has just ended a series of meetings with Prime Minister Vere Bird, his Deputy Lester Bird and senior Foreign Ministry officials which were expected to deal with bilateral assistance.

"I foresee that our economic assistance and technical assistance in areas such as fisheries, agriculture and tourism will continue to be improved to this area and we will try to do our best to meet the requests of the various governments at all times," Ambassador Lee said.

He added that because of the distance between his country and the Caribbean there had been a number of bottlenecks hampering the quick disposal of assistance to the countries in the Caribbean.

The Ambassador said however that every effort would be made to speed up this process in the future.

"We do have, on a continued basis, assistance programmes such as donations of equipment for agricultural use of training of students upon request from the various countries and we have been trying our best to meet these demands," Mr. Lee said.

The Ambassador also noted that South Korea would continue to provide scholarships to Caribbean nations in fields which his country is fully qualified in.

"In the past we have been providing scholarships for Caribbean nationals to travel to South Korea for training in such areas as fisheries, agriculture and export promotion," he added.

Mr. Lee said that South Korea had traditionally had a happy, strong and mutual relationship with the countries of the Caribbean.

With regards to Antigua and Barbuda, the Ambassador said that early in the new year his government would be providing the twin-island state with a number of garbage collection trucks which were badly needed.

He also said that a fisheries expert is to arrive early next year to help the Fisheries Department carry out a number of its projects.

CSO: 3298/221

BRIEFS

CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC EXPERTS--Foreign exchange controls and balance of payments problems facing the region were the focus of a three-day meeting of financial experts from the Caribbean, held in Georgetown last week. A senior official of the Bank of Guyana said the discussions at the meeting focussed on the implications of the presence of a "parallel market" (illegal trading of foreign currency), current banking procedures in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago, formal currency exchange rates and the economic crisis facing the Caribbean. The meeting, organised through the Monetary Studies Programme, is an annual affair which brings together economists and financial experts from the Central Banks in the Caribbean and from the region's university campuses. This year's meeting was attended by representatives from Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority, the University of Guyana, the Mona and St. Augustine Campuses of the University of the West Indies, the University of Waterloo in Canada, the Committee for Monetary Studies in Latin America, and the Caricom Secretariat. Bank of Guyana Governor, Pat Matthews, who delivered the opening address, described the meeting as "a useful exercise and everybody will take home something to chew about." --(GNA) [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 82 p 1]

NEW CARICOM PUBLICATION--The Guyana-based Caribbean Community Secretariat is planning to produce the "CARICOM Bulletin", a publication aimed at disseminating in-depth and background information on the programmes and activities of the regional integration movement, according to a circular received here. The publication will also facilitate objective enquiry, analysis and scholarly discuss of integration trends and issues in, and related to, the Caribbean Community. The printed journal of between 30 to 50 pages, containing three or four articles on integration issues with special reference to the movement, will be published occasionally, possibly two or three times annually, the circular said. An editorial advisory board, comprising people predominantly from within the region, will advise on general issues relating to the development of the bulletin. The proposed members of the board are: Acting Director of the University of the West Indies' Institute of International Relations, Dr. A. Bryan, President of the Caribbean Development Bank, Mr. William Demas, senior lecturer in the Department of Government at the Mona Campus, Dr. Locksley Edmondson, Acting Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, Dr. J. E. Greene, Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Dr. Dennis Irvine, and Dr. Vaughn Lewis, Secretary General of the Organisation of East Caribbean States. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Dec 82 p 2]

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO CARICOM--St. Johns, Antigua, Friday, (CANA)--Antigua and Barbuda new High Commissioner to the Caribbean community, Oscar Henry leaves here at the weekend for Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana to present his credentials. It will be his first official trip since he was appointed five months ago. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Dec 82 p 3]

BANKING BILL--St. John's, Antigua, Saturday, (CANA)--The Antigua and Barbuda House of Assembly has unanimously approved a Bill making provision for the twin-island state to be designated as an international off-shore business centre. The International Business Finance Corporation Act will now go to the Senate for approval before becoming law. The Bill is one of a series of measures which the Government proposes to take to Parliament as it continues to update some obsolete laws, particularly those dealing with banking and corporations. Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird, said that the new measure will encourage the development of the state as a responsible financial off-shore centre, but pointed out that it would not hamper the activities of commercial banking institutions already in operation here. Government expects to earn up to EC\$4 million annually from off-shore business operations. Mr. Bird said the development of off-shore companies in Antigua was bound to open lots of opportunities for young people. He however, cautioned that the country's school curricula will have to be adjusted in order to meet the needs of this new sector, with the high grade of workers that would be needed in that kind of business. Attorney-General Keith Forde assured the House that a special department will be set up in the Ministry of Finance to monitor the operations of the off-shore companies. He said that a number of experts who would be working in this department had already been identified. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Dec 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/221

BRIEFS

PLO OFFICE POSSIBILITY--Tunis, 6 Jan (AFP)--Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Enrique Lupiz, who is on an official visit to Tunisia, asserted here today that Argentina is willing to examine the possibility of opening a PLO office in Buenos Aires if this organization were to make such a request. Lupiz held a meeting with Amhnmud Mestiri, Tunisian secretary of state for foreign affairs. During the meeting the two government officials discussed the future of bilateral relations between the two countries as well as issues of international policy. [Excerpt] [PY070235 Paris AFP in Spanish 0136 GMT 7 Jan 83]

DEEP SEA FISHING BOAT--The deep-sea fishing boat (Igloo I) was commissioned in Necochea on 22 December. The ship is 32.75 meters long, 7.20 meters wide and 4.20 meters high above water line. Moreover, the ship has a 230 cubic-meter cold storage capacity and room for 15 crew members. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 82 PY]

LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS--Lufthansa Airlines has announced that it will resume its regular Saturday and Thursday flights to Buenos Aires next Saturday. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 21 Dec 82 PY]

CSO: 3348/154

OPPOSITION CALLS LAND TAX ACTION 'DELIBERATE HARASSMENT'

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 2 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Opposition MP Dr. Richie Haynes has described the current confusion in respect of land tax notices as a deliberate technique by Government to raise revenue through a process of tax harassment.

He has called on Government as a gesture to the people and in recognition of a major error to issue a statement informing people who have received notices of arrears from the Rates and Taxes Department and who do not in fact owe that they should consider the notices automatically withdrawn.

Dr Haynes was winding up debate on a Resolution moved by him and calling on Government to take immediate steps to withdraw notices of arrears of land tax sent to persons in arrears.

The Opposition MP submitted that while it might be legally right to put the onus of proof in these matters on the people billed, in his opinion this method was morally unjust.

He also submitted that if all these people who were incorrectly billed had to go to the Rates and Taxes Department, then at least 11 000 out of the 23 000 people billed would

have to go through this process.

Dr. Haynes told the Government that it would get a higher level of compliance if it appeared to be more reasonable.

He refused to support an amendment to the Resolution put by Prime Minister Tom Adams, noting that to do this would be to support a tax collection technique which was objectionable. The amendment calls for Parliament to support Government in its resolve to rectify any problems created by the issuing of the notices.

Dr. Haynes submitted that Government knew as far back as 1978 that the notices being sent out were incorrect and he condemned the technique of sending tax notices to people when there was doubt as to whether they owed money and then putting the onus on them to prove they did not owe.

The Opposition MP reminded Government that land occupied a special place in the psyche of the nation and any accumulation of circumstances which disturbed that security of mind of the people threatened the stability of the country.

CSO: 3298/223

GOV'T WAGE HIKE INCITES ROW; ADAMS CHARGES 'CONSPIRACY'

Charge Against Barrow

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 24 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Tom Adams charged in the House of Assembly yesterday that there was a conspiracy on the part of former Prime Minister, now Leader of the Opposition, Errol Barrow, and a known political activist to "disturb the peace, order and good Government of this country as it comes to the 16th anniversary of Independence".

The Prime Minister made the charge after all members of the Opposition, led by Barrow, had stalked out of the Lower Chamber, following a ruling by Speaker Burton Hinds that Barrow should withdraw from the House for the remainder of the day's sitting.

The House had just resumed its sitting at around 5.30 p.m. after a short suspension. It had been in session since noon.

Debate in the House was on a Government resolution providing for increase in salaries for ministers and parliamentary secretaries by \$100 per month, and an increase of 31 percent in travel allowances.

Barrow had been speaking at length on the resolution when an impasse developed between himself and the Speaker over withdrawal of some words, following which there was the Opposition walk-out.

Proceeding to reply in the absence of the members Prime Minister Adams said in Barbados they had been accustomed to treating themselves very badly at the political level.

They deserved better of public opinion than the picture the Opposition was trying to paint, he said, adding that no one had a right to come into Parliament and refuse to withdraw the words Barrow had been asked to withdraw.

"I think," said the Prime Minister, "it was a deliberate effort to make trouble in this country, to make a political point and disturbance."

He revealed that when he arrived in this country yesterday, he was met at the airport by a member of the Special Branch, who said he wished to give him certain information in relation to parliamentary salaries; that he had information to the effect that demonstrations and difficulties were intended in respect of the salaries resolution.

After what had gone on, he said, he could not doubt that there was a conspiracy to disturb the peace, order and good government of the country as it comes to the 16th anniversary of Independence.

Barrow Objection, Walkout

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 24 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] **OPPOSITION Leader, Errol Barrow**, yesterday led the Opposition benches in a walk-out from Parliament, following a ruling by Speaker Burton Hinds to which they objected.

The Speaker had ruled that Barrow should withdraw from the Chamber for the remainder of the day's sitting, after the former Prime Minister found it "difficult" to withdraw some words he had used in the course of debate on a Government

resolution dealing with increased salaries and travelling allowances for ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

Barrow had stated that the measure was "perverted", "dishonest", "corrupt".

Minister of Health, L.B. Brathwaite, had objected to Barrow's use of those words and asked the Speaker to call on him to withdraw them.

Barrow went on to speak without withdrawing the words and the Speaker suspended the

sitting for 20 minutes. On his return to the Chamber, he said he had called on Barrow to withdraw the words, because in the opinion of the chair they were "offensive to the dignity of the House." He then called on Barrow to withdraw the offending words.

Barrow replied that no matter what the Speaker ruled, "I find it impossible in my conscience to withdraw the words."

"There is no democracy in this Parliament," he added. "There is no human rights, no civil rights whatsoever: I feel very strongly, and you may send me to jail."

He then took up his papers and left the Chamber, followed by the seven other members of the Opposition, who loudly protested the Speaker's ruling barring their leader from the Chamber for the remainder of the day.

Government benches then passed the resolution.

Government Position

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] Government's policy of fixing salary increases of Ministers and Members of Parliament in relation to salaries which civil servants get, is seen by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Tom Adams, as morally justifiable, and justifiable on the grounds of wisdom, political wisdom and commonsense.

Declaring that he wanted to put an end to hypocrisy and contention, Mr. Adams said in the House of Assembly yesterday: "We stated that our policy was that ministers' salaries would go up at the same time and by the same percentage as civil servants."

Mr. Adams was moving a Resolution in the House to approve the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remuneration and Allowances) Order 1982.

The increase in salaries is at the rate of \$108 a month, the same amount legislated for civil servants last September. The increase in the fixed Travelling Allowances approximates to the 31 per cent which has been granted to senior ranks of the public service.

Mr. Adams said that Ministers' salaries were fixed at a point just a few dollars above the salaries of senior civil servants.

He said that "to those who look on the Prime Minister's salary as being nearly \$100 000 a year, the increase represents something like 1½ per cent."

Mr. Adams said he did not have a travelling allowance, unlike other Members of the House.

"Ministers, Parliamentary secretaries.....have got

exactly the same increase as everybody else. The increase is 20 per cent for some it is 1 per cent for me but it is a cash increase", Mr. Adams told the House.

Mr. Adams said he has not received any increase in entertainment allowance, adding that all MPs had provisional increases.

"I have only had \$108", he said.

Government's 'Bad Example'

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 26 Nov 82 p 4

[Editorial]

[Excerpts]

AMONG the regular business of the Barbados House of Assembly on Tuesday were a number of Orders that sought to increase remuneration and allowances for members of the Senate and the House of Assembly, ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

Under the authority of Section 5 of the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries Act, 1979, and Section 8 of the Senate and House of Assembly Act, also of 1979, the Minister of Finance is empowered to make orders affecting changes to the schedules to these acts.

It would have been a gesture of great political impact had the minister, in his own discretion, decided instead to freeze the increases for 12 months. It would not have saved the country very much in dollar terms, but it would have been a gesture of priceless worth at a time when sacrifices are being extracted by people at every level.

We think that Government lost a great opportunity this week to demonstrate unselfish leadership in crisis.

But our quarrel is not with their poor political judgement.

Rather, it is with the increases being offered as travelling allowances to some ministers of Government.

The increase for civil servants' travel is of the order of 31 percent. The increase for ministers is of 31 percent also, of course.

At every turn the people of Barbados are being warned about making cutbacks and sacrifices, about containing themselves and avoiding extravagances. We are not seeing any good personal examples from Government.

We do not see the sacrifice and self-denial we had a right to expect and we are disappointed.

Four years ago it was the Prime Minister who told us in his Budget address that the better off must be prepared to share in the sacrifice.

Said Mr. Adams in relation to the need for an incomes policy:

"I have repeated on several occasions that implicit in the concept of an incomes policy is the recognition that not only must the claims of the less well off be accorded first priority, but that the better off must bear their share of the burden of sacrifice."

We have heard that enough times, Mr. Adams. But actions speak louder, much louder, than words.

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 28 Nov 82 p 4

[Text] INDEPENDENCE DAY is but a few days away and so far we are all proud that we have kept the course. There is, however, a cloud hanging over us and we have to be watchful.

The Prime Minister has just revealed to this country that his chief of security has informed him that Mr. Errol Barrow and a political activist, have plans for the disruption of the rule of law in this country. This is probably the most serious charge that has been made against Mr. Barrow in his whole political career, and make no mistake about it, it is a serious charge.

We, of course, do not know from where the Chief of Security gets his information but obviously he found it so serious that he had to meet the Prime Minister at the Airport to convey his news. Mr. Barrow, so far, seemed to have treated the accusation with disdain and most people would wonder why, you name Mr. Barrow and leave people to guess who is the political activist. Who is this other dangerous person in our midst?

Why would the man who sought independence for this country now become subversive? Recently, I read where the Leader of the Opposition said that we need people's politics in this country and suggested that we should look at what is happening in St. Lucia and St. Vincent, presumably for us to follow them. That we who always thought we led the way in these parts should now be wanting to follow. This was surprising. However, the suggestion should not be simply dismissed.

FRUSTRATION

I believe that Mr. Barrow was expressing his frustration with the political system that makes mockery of the office of the Leader of the Opposition where a Government has a big majority.

A position Mr. Barrow understands well, since he too, had big majorities in the House.

It raises the question however, about what can an opposition leader do where a government is accused of being a bad government, where the situation is interpreted by the leader of the opposition as deteriorating and the government still legally has a long way to go.

It is obvious that in these circumstances, only the pressure of the people can change the course. A situation we hope to avoid. Mr. Barrow is accusing the Government of poor management. Mr. Adams says that his has been prudent management

which got stuck in depressionary times.

Whatever it is, the times are rough. The people are hard put in this our time of Independence celebrations. What we cannot allow, is for rumour and informers to distract us in these times or for fear to make us so reactionary that we defeat the cause of human rights of which we have been hearing so much.

Adams Attack on DLP

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 2 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Tom Adams has described as strange the attitude of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party in respect of salary increases granted to MPs last week.

The DLP announced last weekend that the increased salaries and allowances due to its MPs would be donated to charity.

Mr. Adams queried why the DLP would donate \$108 a month to charity, when in 1977-1978 when worse economic conditions existed, the Leader of the Opposition did not take the decision to donate his salary increase of \$1 645 to charity.

"I can only question why an increase of \$108 a month qualifies for such different treatment than an increase of \$1 645," the Prime Minister said.

He noted that the Opposition had not supported a salary increase since 1976 and yet this was the first time that they were donating such an increase to charity.

In respect of Opposition Leader Mr. Errol Barrow's allegation, that the Opposition were not invited into any

discussion about salary increases for MPs, Mr. Adams said that the Opposition was not invited because Government did not think it necessary to court a third snob from them.

He said that the Opposition had been invited to sit on Select Committees and to consider salary increase on two previous occasions and they had refused.

CSO: 3298/223

BUDGET DATA FOR 1981, 1982 REVIEWED AS INDEPENDENCE MARKED

Report on Expenditures

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 28 Nov 82 Independence Special p 18

[Text] THERE was the expected cut-back in capital projects, with expenditure trimmed down from \$175 000 000 in the fiscal year, which ended on March 31, to \$135 691 861 for the current financial year.

Yet Parliament voted a record \$501.3 million this year, to upgrade this country's educational plant, increase the national housing stock and generally improve the multiplicity of economic and social services provided here.

Some \$300 093 011 were allocated for public services wages and salaries, as well as for the purchase of goods and services; another \$134 137 347 were voted as subsidies and contributions to local, regional and

international organisations, and \$67 082 622 to service domestic and foreign borrowing.

Education took the bulk of the allocation under current expenditure (\$99 361 765), while the general public service was given the second largest slice of \$84 287 758. A provision of \$49 019 937 was voted for social security and welfare; \$63 642 317 for health; \$14 658 500 for housing and community amenities, including cooperatives, town planning and environmental sanitation, and \$11 399 040 for Defence and Security.

However, the Estimates debate in March was against a backdrop of an overall current accounts deficit of \$185 969 642 for the last financial year, and a projected overall deficit of \$142.6 million at the end of the current fiscal

year.

In the previous year, current and capital expenditure increased by 12 and 59 percent respectively as against current revenue which had grown only a slight one percent at the end of January - less than two months before the 1982 Estimates were tabled in the House of Assembly.

As was pointed out, Government had budgeted for current revenue to the tune of \$483 726 736 and expenditure at \$469 490 863. But by January 31, actual revenue collected stood at \$354 344 000 with an additional \$109 109 00 expected in by the end of March for a total projected revenue of \$463 453 000 for the 1981-82 year.

On the other hand, current expenditure was at

\$382 996 000 at the end of January. A further \$90 430 000 had been projected to be spent by the end of the fiscal year, to carry total expenditure to \$473 426 000, or a current account deficit of \$9 973 000.

Supplementary provisions during the 1981-82 year, together with the cost of regrading certain positions in the public service, were attributed for increasing the amount available for spending during the year, even though efforts were made to restructure current expenditure to approximately \$473 000 000 by the end of the fiscal year.

Public financing of a number of projects, including the new Bridgetown Sewerage Project, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - both of which are already in operation; the Heywoods Holiday Village in St.

Peter, the Arawak Cement Plant in St. Lucy, as well as school buildings, roads and other works, accounted for the increase in capital expenditure, which was projected at \$175 000 00 at the end of the fiscal year.

Despite its financial constraints, however, Government continued with a capital works programme to further enhance the country's infrastructure.

Education, as has always been the case, collected a huge sum of \$17 625 300 from the capital budget for extension and repairs to schools as well as the construction of a number of new primary schools which are being partly funded by the World Bank.

There were also votes for extension work at the Erdiston Teachers' Training College (\$72 000) and the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (\$254 699).

Provision was also included in the 1982 estimates to cover the cost of a new centre for the Schools Meals service, the text books loan scheme and Government's annual uniform grant.

In addition to a "token" vote of \$300 for the Bridgetown

Sewerage Project for which some \$10 659 400 was approved in last year's estimates, a sum of \$425 000 was allocated for the Ministry of Health to undertake a south and west coasts sewerage project study, which the Inter-American Development Bank agreed to fund.

Some \$12 000 was also allocated for a detection and control of a pollution programme, and \$20 000 for the continuation of a marine

pollution programme. Both were undertaken by the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Housing secured \$11 000 00 \$33 932 more than last year) to continue its house-building programme and to meet the payment of compensation for land and property acquired by Government.

The Urban Development Scheme, which takes in Roebuck Street and the New Orleans developments, as well

as funding to meet fees and loans for plantation tenants to acquire freehold ownership of the land they now occupy, were also included in the Housing vote.

Government also set aside \$600 000 for a million-dollar beach protection programme which covers a comprehensive study of the erosion problem on Barbados' coastline. Some 85 percent of the money required this year for the study is reimbursable under a loan agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank.

Of other allocations under capital expenditure, \$23 388 599 went to the Civil Aviation and Tourism Division; \$20 919 250 to the Ministry of

Transport and Works; \$6 500 000 to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and \$5 162 662 to the Ministry of Information and Culture, to cover among other things, debts outstanding from last year's Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts.

The \$7 500 00, which went to Defence and Security provided for the purchase of equipment and ceremonial uniforms, construction of aircraft hangars and motor transport garages, as well as the purchase of weapons.

Repairs and renovations at St. Ann's Fort, Paragon and St. Lucy depots, as well as the Coast Guard base at the Pierhead, were also included in the Defence vote.

Highlights of '82 Budget

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 28 Nov 82 Independence Special p 20

[Text] WHAT the 1982 Budget offered:

1. Allowances on house rents, estimated to cost the Government \$1.6 million in revenue.
2. Increased child allowances, estimated to result in revenue to the tune \$400 000.
3. Increased old age pensions: non-contributory pensions rose to \$33 a week from April 3, and contributory pensions to \$40 a week, from the same date.
4. Cash incentives for agriculture to the tune of \$600 000.
5. An annual allowance for industrial building at the rate of 40 percent of the cost and for the remaining 60 percent per annum allowance at the rate of four percent.

Taxes and levies:

1. Imposition of temporary surcharge of three percent on corporate profits: expected to yield \$2.0 million revenue.
2. Tax on insurance premium remitted to foreign companies which are not registered under the Insurance Act: to bring in additional revenue of \$500 000.
3. Increase in National Insurance contributions, to four percent, to be shared equally by employer and employee.
4. Gaming and Betting tax on Instant Money cards

(tickets) increased from ten cents to 30 cents per ticket, and consumption tax increased from 20 to 30 percent: estimated to bring in \$200 000 in additional revenue. (In the meantime, the Gaming and Betting Tax on BTC tickets reduced from 10 cents per ticket to five cents per ticket: anticipated \$100 000 in revenue.)

5. Consumption taxes on liquor and cigarettes increased.

Excise Duty and distillers' licence on rum also increase by 65 cents per litre and four cents per litre, respectively: additional revenue of \$5.5 million estimated.

6. Changes in Consumption taxes on cosmetics, miscellaneous plastics and other items: additional revenue of \$1.8 million expected.

7. Three cents per litre increase on gasoline, and diesel by six cents per litre: additional revenue of \$2.6 million expected.

8. Consumption taxes on motor vehicles (excluding lorries) increased to 50 percent and 70 percent. (A rebate of 20 percent will be granted on vehicles imported by garages): additional revenue estimated at \$1.6 million.

9. Licence fees for motor vehicles increase. A new tax regime introduced to deal with trailers and articulated units.

Additional revenue projected at \$2.4 million.

10. Parking fees increased: to yield \$50 000 in additional revenue.

11. Driving licences and other fees collected by the Police Department increased: additional revenue expected estimated at \$1.2 million.

12. Liquor licences increased: to bring in \$400 000 in additional revenue.

13. Increases in notarial and other services provided by the Registrar estimated to yield \$750 000 in revenue.

14. Increased stamp duties projected to yield \$8.5 million in additional revenue.

15. Increased fees for registration of professionals (from 1983) to yield additional revenue of \$400 000.

16. Increased fees for banking licences and the introduction of a tax on average assets for the previous year (with effect from July, 1982): expected to bring in revenue of \$2.1 million in a full year.

17. Additional revenue of \$50 000 expected from increased Wireless and Telegraphy fees.

18. Additional Revenue of \$200 000 projected from increased fees at Queen Elizabeth and Psychiatric hospitals.

19. Increased water rates.

CSO: 3298/224

DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN CEILINGS TO BE RAISED 150-200 PERCENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Tom Adams, has agreed to raise the ceiling on loans from the Barbados Development Bank (BDB) to small manufacturing business by 200 per cent and the limit on loans to Small Businesses by 150 per cent.

The necessary Order under the Barbados Development Bank Act, Cap. 323 will be made shortly to give effect to the increased ceilings.

At the request of the BDB, loans to Small Businesses will be increased from the present ceiling of \$100,000 to \$250,000, and small manufacturing businesses from its existing ceilings of \$100,000 to \$300,000.

The BDB set a new record lending of \$5.8 million on 196 approved loans in the fiscal year 1981-1982, an increase of \$2.5 million or 75 per cent over the previous fiscal year's level. The 196 loans approved represent a rise of 73 loans or 59.3 per cent over the 1980-81 fiscal year.

This BDB commitment in the 1981-82 fiscal year provided for 260 job opportunities created, a rise of 47 or 22.1 per cent.

The BDB, in respect to the higher ceiling proposals, stated that requests for assistance for small businesses have been exceeding the \$100,000 mark sufficiently often to indicate that this limit should be increased. The ceiling for small

businesses was last fixed in February 1981, when it was raised from \$50,000.

The BDB felt that the new level of assistance was necessary in order to respond adequately to the needs of the small business community. The ceiling for small manufacturing sector has not moved since November 1979, when it was lifted to \$100,000 from \$50,000.

"At the Bank, when small manufacturing projects exceed the loan ceiling set for that category, they retain

eligibility for bank financing by moving in the industry sector of the bank's portfolio," a BDB spokesman said.

"However, the bank feels it is important that the contribution of small-scale enterprises, including manufacturing should be identified and established as a separate category wherever feasible, hence the proposal for the increase to the \$300,000 ceiling," he said.

In the last fiscal year, the BDB approved 165 loans valued at \$5.05 million in the small business sector compared with 114 loan approvals with a dollar value of \$3.04 million in the 1980-81 fiscal year. This means an average of 51 loans with a rise in dollar value of 65.9 per cent or \$2 million.

Loan approvals in the Small Manufacturing sector for the 1981-82 totalled 31 worth \$759,000. This is 22 more than the loans approved in the previous fiscal year. Those nine loans were valued at

\$273,939, giving a 177.1 per cent rise or \$485,061 increase for 1981-82 fiscal year.

The breakdown for job opportunities created in small businesses in fiscal year 1981-82, was 166 compared with 153 in 1980-81, an increase of 13 jobs. In small manufacturing, 94 job opportunities were created, a rise of 60 over the 34 job opportunities created in 1980-81.

Some of the small business loans went to hairdressing and beauty salons, mini-bus operations, mini-marts, and retail shops, mobile canteens, and trucking operations.

For small manufacturing, some of the loans went to wrought-iron shops, upholstery and furniture manufacturing businesses, and garment manufacturing enterprises.

Any type of small-scale enterprise is eligible for loans from the BDB so long as they satisfy the loan requirements. However, the BDB, according to the Act, is not allowed to give loans or other forms of financial assistance for the purpose of enabling goods to be purchased in order that they may be resold in the same condition as that in which they were purchased.

REDUCED INTEREST RATES SCHEDULED, PER CENTRAL BANK

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] The proposed reduction in the interest rates charged by commercial banks and other lending institutions in Barbados will become effective next Wednesday December 1.

Governor of the Central Bank Dr. Courtney Blackman in announcing the December 1, date, said that further reductions could depend on whether the rates in the United States remain low, and also on this country's inflation rate which was calculated at 10 per cent up to the end of October.

The minimum lending rate will be reduced from 12 per cent to 10 per cent; the average lending rate will now be 13 per cent instead of the 14 per cent now being charged; mortgage interest rate on residential buildings drops from 12 per cent to 11 per cent, and on commercial buildings from 14 per cent to 13 per cent.

Also affected is the rate on domestic savings with the minimum savings deposit rate dropping from seven per cent to six per cent.

Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams had announced in New York that the rates were to be reduced and Dr. Blackman said yesterday that the measures were to reduce the cost of borrowing and not increase the level.

The Central Bank official said the country's foreign reserves rose by \$45 million to the end of October mainly as a

result of borrowings from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to him: "Barbados has so far borrowed \$45.5 million from the IMF under their arrangement to compensate countries for declining foreign exchange earnings and on a borrowing programme which extends to May 1984."

Looking to the future Dr. Blackman said he believed the local economy should begin to ease in the second half of next year.

"I believe that the falling interest rates in the U.S. should lead to a pick up in that economy, and before the second half of 1983 we should see signs of an upswing in the United States", Dr. Blackman noted.

He pointed out that economists in the United States did not anticipate a sharp revival but rather a steady one.

He added that the creation of employment in Barbados will have to await an improvement in the international climate.

MONALI CALLS FOR NATIONALIZATION OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Nov 82 p 2

[Text] MONALI, the socialist Movement for National Liberation, wants the nationalisation of this country's sugar factories, among wide-ranging measures which it proposes as solutions to the ills in the Barbadian society. The proposals which deal with other areas such as tourism, culture, small business, and foreign affairs, are outlined in a "Minimum Programme of Monali" paper which is to be launched at a mass rally to take place at Ashdeane Village, St. Michael, tomorrow, Independence Day.

At a press conference last Saturday MONALI's General Secretary, Mr. Francis Belle, and Organising Secretary, Mr. Ricky Parris, said that the proposals outlined in the Paper were deeply rooted in the interests of the people of this country, from the point of view that the areas identified relate to the interests of the workers, the small businesses and the performance of the Barbados economy as a whole.

Mr. Belle said that the proposals are some of those which have been put forward by interested groups over the years, but were never implemented. "They are what we feel are best for the people of Barbados at this time especially", said Mr. Belle.

Mr. Belle said that the Paper should not be confused with a manifesto of what MONALI would do "when it gets into power."

"But we see the proposals now as reflecting the interests of the people in the country, and they are what we feel are best for Barbados now," he said.

In dealing with the problem-plagued sugar industry as one of the ills "in dire need of a solution", MONALI sees that State ownership of the sugar factories should be an immediate goal of the Government.

DANISH AMBASSADOR OFFERS VARIETY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Dec 82 p 2

[Text] The Danish Ambassador to Barbados, Lars Blinkenberg says his government would like to assist government in the fields of fishing, pig farming, agriculture as well as in establishing joint venture industrial projects.

The ambassador, who is now on a one-week visit here told CANA that because of Barbados' High Gross National Product (GNP) per capita, the island (upwards of US\$1200) could not qualify for direct aid from Denmark, but could receive technical assistance.

"The Danish aid programmes are more or less geared towards the bloc of the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) with a very low income of US\$500 per capita income and only countries below that limit will receive aid from us.

"However, we have a technical assistance programme where we do not apply the same limitations and it is in this connection that Barbados could get some assistance, he said.

Mr. Blinkenberg said that the assistance his government was offering was subject to the Barbados Government approval.

He said that Barbados could also benefit from a fund for industrialisation of the developing world which could be used for joint venture projects.

The Danish official said that there was no limit to how

much money Barbados could use in these joint ventures.

He said that like other countries of the world Denmark too is suffering from economic recession, high rates of interest and a contracting economy.

"Denmark has decided, despite these drawbacks, to continue its aid programme and as members of European Economic Community (EEC) the diplomat said.

He said Denmark has had an opportunity to strengthen its co-operation with Barbados through the Lome Convention.

Mr. Blinkenberg said that his government would also be willing to help Barbados in the fields of education and telecommunication by offering a number of scholarships.

OPPOSITION LISTS 11 AREAS IN WHICH GOV'T HAS FAILED

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 1 Dec 82 p 29

[Text] THE Barbados Government has been deemed responsible for the many difficulties facing Barbadians today, as a result of "bad mismanagement".

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Erskine Sandiford, made this observation last Sunday night, while addressing a massive independence rally in Independence Square.

Sandiford outlined 11 areas where the Government has gone wrong, stating:

- A chronic and totally undesirable level of inflation.
- An alarming decline in the purchasing power of the Barbados dollar, accompanying the steep rise in prices.
- An impending balance of payments crisis.
- A burdensome increase in the level of indirect taxation.
- A rapid, persistent and disturbing increase in the national debt.
- Low Levels of agriculture productivity.
- A steep decline in the number of tourists and the decline in Barbados as a desirable tourist destination.
- Failure to increase the number of houses to meet housing demands.
- The accelerating decline and deterioration of the infrastructure of this country.
- Overcrowding and deterioration in our health institutions.
- A deterioration in the industrial climate in Barbados.

Sandiford called on the people to examine closely the present situation, and find out who was responsible and who was to blame.

He said: "Parliament is being

treated with scant respect by the Government, since there is distinct evidence that the major decisions taken concerning this country are being taken in the name of the people, but in a number of instances the representatives of the people have no part in those decisions at the very critical and crucial stages of decision-making."

He referred to the fact that the major issues discussed by the Government at the just concluded Heads of Government meeting in Jamaica, were not debated in the Barbados House of Assembly prior to the summit.

CSO: 3298/225

DEVELOPMENTS IN REVIVAL OF SHRIMP INDUSTRY REPORTED

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 28 Nov 82 p 18

[Text]

BARBADOS Fisheries Limited bought over nine shrimp trawlers from the liquidators of the defunct International Seafoods Limited R.S. Kirby to signal a revival in the shrimp industry here.

The shrimp trawlers which had started to deteriorate in the Careenage's inner basin after being tied up there for some four years, underwent enormous repairs by its new owners. Prior to the purchase by Barbados Fisheries Limited, this firm had been leasing the shrimp trawlers for some three years, Director of the company Mr. Challenor Jones said.

At the moment seven of the nine trawlers are engaged in fishing. They do most of their fishing off the Guyana, Trinidad and Venezuelan banks. The vessels are manned by some 40 crewmen 90 per cent of whom are Barbadians.

Mr. Jones said that the majority of shrimp caught by his trawlers is sold to Trinidad, a country with a large shrimp processing plant. The shrimp is exported

from Trinidad to the United States, Spain and Portugal. The trawlers each catch some 15 000 pounds of shrimp on average. All other fish caught are brought to Barbados for local consumption. These include trout, billfish, shark and butterfish.

Mr. Jones said that the Trinidad authorities subsidised his fuel and because of this generosity, he sells his fish to that country at TT\$1 and buys it back from them at Bds\$1. The fish is stored on the trawlers at a temperature of 30 degrees Fahrenheit and sold to local consumers from the Barbados Fisheries fish depot at the Wharf, Bridgetown.

Commenting on his export trade to Trinidad, Mr. Jones said that the exports to Trinidad was a natural move seeing that the local market needs only an estimated 5 000 pounds of shrimp per month and his trawlers catch around 75 000 pounds per month.

What the Barbados Fisheries Limited is demonstrating is that Barbados can have a successful shrimp industry, in the wake of past failings.

CSO: 3298/225

REVIEW OF UNION MOVEMENT DEVELOPMENTS IN 1982

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 28 Nov 82 Progress Edition p 21

[Text]

The year 1982 has indeed been a difficult period for the trade union movement in Barbados. In fact, the Barbados Workers' Union's 41st Annual Report has classified the year as "probably one of the most difficult periods faced by the Union within the last two decades."

The pressures on the Union, as an institution, and the workers, as citizens, surfaced at many fronts but the forthright and mature leadership by the Barbados Workers' Union and the resistance of the workforce prevented a potentially turbulent period. In spite of the nagging and persistent problems posed by the current economic climate in the area of collective bargaining as well as some heavy-handed measures by the Government in respect to legislation and collective bargaining, the Union has pursued a positive stance regarding its growth.

One of these positive measures is the construction of a new headquarters at Harmony Hall, Hindsbury Road. Work has already started on the site which will see extensions to the existing building, new additional wings for Research and Finance, an Assembly Hall as well as parking facilities.

The storm clouds of economic uncertainty which had hovered above in 1981 during the year rained down a number of very serious problems. The international

economic recession deepened and unemployment in the country increased as workers in the public and private sectors were laid-off, made redundant, or as in the case of the hotels and garment industries were put on short time.

The economic position in Barbados, exacerbated by the poor performance of sugar, tourism and, to some extent, manufacturing, set in train advice by the Government and Central Bank to keep wage increases at levels of 4 per cent and 5 per cent, the levels being negotiated in some industrialised countries.

As a result, two of the principal fronts on which the Union fought determined battles were (a) the attempts by the Government at pushing through Parliament the Emergency Powers Bill 1982 and (b) Government's assault at undermining the Collective Agreement processes.

The Union's concern over the Government's disregard of the sacredness of collective bargaining had to do with its increasing tendency to become involved in negotiations where it had a direct interest and to resort to legislative machinery to conclude settlements.

Twice during the year, in the case of the sugar negotiations and in the matter of the public service negotiations, the Government used legislative machinery to conclude negotiations.

The negotiations in the public sector and in the sugar industry as well as the debate surrounding the Emergency Powers Bill were areas around which much attention was generated.

A new agreement between the Union and the Sugar Producers' Federation came into effect from January 1, 1982 to extend over two years.

Negotiations began in December, 1981 when there was a meeting held between the Sugar Producers' Federation and the Union at domestic level. The Federation asked for an extension of the current agreements over 1982, but this was rejected by the Union.

The Union called for a 35 per cent increase and changes in certain conditions of employment. When negotiations broke down at this level, a meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the Chief Labour Officer (Ag) Again, after one meeting, no agreement was reached.

A number of meetings was held then between the Union and the Minister of Labour in order to try to reach a settlement. The Minister called a meeting between the Sugar Producers and the Union, but this also failed to reach a settlement.

At this stage, the Prime Minister prescribed a settlement on February 8, 1982, based on the 1968 Minimum Wage and Guaranteed

Employment Act, Cap. 359, Section 3. The offer, according to the Order was 10 per cent in 1982, and a further 10 per cent in 1983.

The Union rejected this settlement on the grounds that the cost of living had increased by 28 per cent during the period of the prior agreement. The Union's proposal at this time was for an increase of 20 per cent in the first year, and a further 5 per cent in the second year.

The Union took to the platform and meetings were held in St. Michael, St. Philip, St. John and St. Peter informing the general public and the membership of the various issues.

Through the good agencies of Sir Hugh Springer and Burns Bonadie, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour, a meeting between the Federation and the Union, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance was held on February 14 at Government Headquarters.

At this meeting it was agreed that the workers would be paid a 15 per cent increase in the first year of the agreement and a further 10 per cent in the second year. However, 5 per cent of the first year's increase would be paid in two instalments at the end of June and in December 1982.

Negotiations with Government over wage-salary increases for workers in the public sector ended on Monday, August 9, 1982 when

Government announced to a joint meeting of Union and Associations representing public servants that it proposed to pay \$25 per week or \$108 per month as increases over the two year period. Government signified its intention to legislate a settlement if the Unions and Associations could not accept the offer made by the Government.

The rather abrupt end to the negotiations came after three meetings between the Union

and the Establishments Division of the Prime Minister's Office. The Union had submitted a wages-salaries proposal based on the following:-

Key scale and salaries up to \$1 000 per month — 35 per cent.

Salaries \$1 000 — \$1 499 per month — 30 per cent.

Salaries \$1 500 per month and over — 25 per cent.

At the first meeting between the Union and Establishments, Government offered an increase of \$15 per week or \$65 per month for each worker in the first year and \$18 per week or \$78 per month in the second year. This offer was rejected by the Union.

At the second meeting, Government increased its proposal marginally to \$20 per week or \$87 per month, again across the board, for the two-year period. This was once more rejected by the Union.

KEY SCALE

Category	1981 Wage	BWU'S proposal	Govt's offer	Difference
1	\$222	\$227.50	\$247	\$30.50
2	193	241.50	218.20	23.30
3	188	235	213	22
4	173.60	217	198.60	18.40
5	165.60	207	190.60	16.40
6	156.80	196	181.80	14.20
7	147.60	184.50	172.60	11.90
8	138	172.50	163	9.50
9	129.96	162.45	154.96	7.49
10	130	162.50	155	7.50

Messenger Z28-21

Customs Guard	546 - 762	683 - 953	654 - 879	29 - 83
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Postman Z27-20	573 - 789	716 - 986	681 - 897	35 - 89
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Senior Customs Guard	708 - 885	885	816	69
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Senior Postman Z22-18	985	1229	1093	136
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since it bore no relationship to the reality of the cost of living increases, and because the principle of an across the board increase was unacceptable.

The Union communicated an adjusted proposal to the Government on 1982-07-09.

\$1 500 and over — 15 per cent.

Under \$1 500 — 25 per cent.

At the third and final meeting with Establishments, Government acknowledged that the Union's offer was reasonable, but stated that it could not satisfy the Union's request. Government then proposed a new offer of \$22.50 per week or \$97 per month across the board. Again this offer was rejected by the Union.

The stage was then set for intervention by the Prime Minister. Government claimed that it could not afford an increase of more than \$25 million without jeopardising the balance of payments position and the stage of the public finances. It noted that in order to pay increased wages it would have

to resort to short term commercial borrowing or to Central Bank accommodation. The threat of devaluation also seemed

evident.

The Union rejected the settlement proposed by the Government.

The following is an indication of the difference between Government and the Union's final positions on wages for the Key Scale and some areas of the Z Scale.

The Union had informed the Government that it would accept the 1982 proposal of \$25 per week or \$108 per month but that the Government in 1983 would have to pay \$5 million compounded on the \$25 million agreed to for 1982.

The Union has vigorously denounced the call for wage freeze by the Government and during the year it has completed important rounds of negotiations in other sectors such as Garment industry, the Lumber and Hardware Group, the Garage Group, Commission Agents and Provision Merchants Group, Construction and Quarrying.

Agreement has been reached in certain areas of the Port Authority and Telephone Company negotiations and discussions are to begin soon between the Union and the Employers' Confederation on behalf of the Hotel and Catering Group, which has already called for a wage freeze.

It is anticipated that in the months ahead conditions will be made no easier owing to the bleak picture painted by economic pundits but the Union has committed itself towards paving a way for a better life for the workers of Barbados.

CSO: 3298/225

TEACHERS ANNOUNCE END TO SERIES OF 'ROTARY' STRIKES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Union of Teachers has announced the end of its series of rotary strikes called to fight its case for a commitment from the government that it would meet the union to re-open negotiations for salary increases for 1983-84.

BUT President, Victor Hutchinson said that teachers had shown very solid support throughout the industrial action called in protest against the legislation of salaries. Hutchinson revealed that a strategy session was held by the Union on Monday when plans were considered for the next phase of the union's continuing defence of the principle of collective bargaining.

The BUT has said it would accept Government's offer of \$108 a month across the board on agreement that negotiations on the second year are worked out.

The BUT President advised parents and guardians that there would be no further industrial action during the current school term.

The Union has also commented on Government's increase in the salaries and allowances of Ministers and Parliamentarians. Hutchinson described the increase in various allowances by 31 per cent as being hypocritical,

immoral, and totally lacking in conscience, in view of the government's approach to salary increases for teachers and civil servants. Certain public workers will also get the same increase in allowances.

Hutchinson said that when it is remembered that the government has not yet even committed itself to meeting the unions next year, government's behaviour has shown contempt both for the workers and people of the country. He also added that the governments' credibility on the matter of salary increases and the collective bargaining process was now at zero point.

PRC OFFICIAL SAYS FARM EXPERTS WILL VISIT BY YEAR'S END

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] A team of Chinese vegetable farming experts are expected in Barbados by yearend to conduct an intensive programme in vegetable farming production techniques.

This was disclosed yesterday by Vice-Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Mr. Han Xu, in the V.I.P. Lounge of the Grantley Adams Airport.

The Vice Foreign Minister arrived in Barbados yesterday on a stop-over trip to Jamaica where he will sign the new international convention of the Law of the Sea.

He said that this exchange of farming ideas was only one of the ways in which the relationship between Barbados and China can be enhanced.

Mr. Han Xu said that another possible form of exchange between the two

countries was in the area of tourism management. He said that other possible forms of economic exchange are to be discussed in full on his return to China in about three weeks.

Mr. Han Xu is accompanied by the Deputy Director of the department of American and Oceanic Affairs in China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Tao Daz Hao.

Today the two Chinese diplomats are expected to pay

a courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Louis Tull at 10 a.m.

They will be in Barbados for three days before moving on to Jamaica. During their stay here, the two diplomats will do some sight-seeing and get familiar with the Barbadian life. This is the first time they have visited the island.

They are guests of the Chinese Embassy in Golf Club Road, Christ Church.

CSO: 3298/225

HIGH LEVEL OF GOV'T BORROWING CALLED THREAT TO STABILITY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Dec 82 p 2

[Text] Former Barbados Deputy Prime Minister, J. Cameron Tudor, has warned the Government here that its high level of external borrowing poses a threat to the peace and stability of the island.

"...In the foreseeable future, a large proportion of this nation's productive capacity will be diverted to meeting external obligations whose priority will be higher than that ordinarily devoted to the welfare of the country's citizens, and it is somewhere along this tightrope that the country may become ungovernable," Tudor said.

According to Central Bank statistics, Barbados foreign debt, Bds\$50.2 million (one Bds dollar equal 50 cents U.S) at the end of 1976, four months after the Tom Adams Government came to power, more than quadrupled up to July this year, when it stood at Bds\$275.3 million.

The one-time former Barbados permanent representative to the United Nations last Wednesday night delivered the annual Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neal memorial lecture, organised by the Opposition Democratic Labour Party, in honour of the man it regards as the father of democratic movement in Barbados.

In his hour-long lecture entitled "the crisis and constitution," Tudor attacked the economic policies of the Adams Administration, accusing it of handing over some

of the island's sovereignty to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under its current economic assistance programme to Barbados.

"Our sovereignty over fiscal and economic affairs has now been handed over to the international agencies who themselves are the engineers of those exogenous factors which, with the collusion of our government, now compound the serious economic crisis facing our country," the Oxford-educated political scientist said.

This was an apparent reference to Barbados recent agreements to borrow some US\$47.2 million from the IMF. Government has declined to give details of the conditions of the loan agreements, triggering Opposition allegations of impending stringencies.

Tudor, who served in the former DLP administration from 1961-71 said the economic and fiscal policies of the government had virtually destroyed the local middle class and had worsened the plight of the working class.

In the case of the middle class, he said these hardships were manifest in the slow growth of home ownership and reduced maintenance because of high interest rates.

In the case of the working class, Tudor pointed to increases in taxation coupled with slashes in state subsidies by government which he said were at the behest of the IMF in areas of health, education and public transport.

"When, therefore, a government imposes a health levy on national insurance contributions and still raises the rental of a hospital bed, the charges for laboratory services while it neglects to provide clean bed linen daily, it is purposely defrauding the citizens," Tudor contended.

He added: "If, in addition to this, it imposes a transport levy and can neither keep the roads in good repair nor vehicles spare parts and insurance coverage at reasonable prices, and still raises bus fares, it is again robbing the citizen by placing him in the double jeopardy of paying for services not received and paying an extra fine for the privilege of grumbling."

Tudor said the discontent prevalent in the Barbadian society was raising its head in the increasing crime level. He went on: "Civil society is breaking down with such rapidity that only the judges and the police stand between the society and anarchy."

The former Barbados Deputy Prime Minister cautioned that if the current trend is not reversed, the system of constitutional government here could be threatened in the long run.

"Constitutional government cannot flourish alongside a mortally wounded economy and pauperised people," Tudor stressed.

Tudor was critical of the decision by the Adams Government to legalise slot machines here in 1977, saying it was not only sucking the

money of the working man, but through it, vital foreign exchange was leaked out of the island.

"If politicians can give their blessing to a gambling structure which has impoverished the people of this country by the drainage of possibly three or four hundred million dollars over a six year period, it is a hallmark of cynicism and callousness to recoup this wastage of resources by taxation and other impositions," he said.

((CANAL))

CSO: 3298/226

UNIONS TAKING STANDS; INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CAUSES CONCERN

Call for Gov't Restructuring

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Dec 82 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) has noted the appointment of Mr. Grey Forde to the post of Chief Labour Officer, but has appealed to Government for a restructuring of the Department of Labour.

According to the BWU: "Now that the Chief Labour Officer has been appointed the union is again appealing to Government for a total restructuring of the Department of Labour."

It is said the department performed many functions relating to the welfare of workers and the preservation of industrial peace and harmony in Barbados, and felt that Department was treated for too long as the "Cinderella of the Government service."

The union contended that the restructuring it is suggesting was designed to fulfill the need of a department in a contemporary Barbadian situation and will include an increase in the

staffing of the department.

In addition the BWU suggested the appointment of ten factory inspectors in light of the demands of the new Factories Act and the new thrust in Occupational Safety and Health.

"There is also a need for a legal section in the department to deal expeditiously with legal matters relating to the department rather than having them to undergo the slow and painful process of referring all of its legal matters to an already hard-pressed Department of Legal Affairs," the BWU said.

The BWU is of the opinion that the Labour Department can play a meaningful role in the preparation of a proper manpower survey of Barbados, involving up-to-date statistics on a wide range of areas relating to the labour force.

Position on Harbor Operations

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Dec 82 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) says its position on the operation of the shallow Draught Facility at the deep water Bridgetown Harbour remains firm, following a statement made by Transport and Works Minister Mr. Don Blackman.

Dr. Blackman, according to the BWU, is reported to have said it was hoped that early next year legal steps would have taken to effect the transfer of trading operations from the Careenage to the Shallow Draught and provide a fillip to inter-regional trade.

The BWU said it was not clear as to what the minister meant about taking legal steps "but our stance on the Shallow Draught is unequivocal."

It cautioned it was not prepared for workers to be exploited today in the same way before the Harbour was

built, adding that the basis of discussions relating to the future of the draught cannot be on a "take it or leave it" basis.

The BWU said that the docks fell within a special category in the local economy and employees there were conscious of the role they played in the creation of this modern facility.

Walcott on Procedures

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Dec 82 p 2

[Advertisement]

[Text]

We note, with concern, a growing trend of attempting to circumvent some of the important industrial relations issues along the pathways of what are being termed 'new incentives' in industry. We do not consider it improper to project new thinking in industry. This is welcome and should be appreciated by all partners in industry. Our concern relates, however, to the unilateral introduction of changed industrial relations procedures, *moreso*, when there appears to be an attempt to do so in the Sugar Industry, one of the largest labour sectors in Barbados.

We do not subscribe to the view that because some of the industrial negotiators in the United States have accepted a method of negotiating agreements which provides for the non-payment of increased wages, that this formula should be adopted in Barbados. We do not wish at this point to argue the reasons for the objections, suffice it to state

that the various countries throughout the world are governed by the circumstances prevailing in their respective areas which determine the methods that are appropriate in each case.

In the Advocate-News of Friday, 12th November, 1982, it was reported that the Sugar Producers' Association had stated, among other things, that a formula had to be announced before the support price was made and they did not want the support price to be delayed for another two weeks. The report showed the estimated benefits which would be recovered by the industry if the burning of canes was reduced or eliminated. It has been proposed that part of the benefits be utilised to make incentive payments to field staff and field sugar workers on their crop time earnings for the reaping of green canes.

We consider that this proposal goes to the core of industrial relations procedures and the whole

concept of collective bargaining. We do not wish to accuse anyone of bad faith, but we must in the interest of the workers in the sugar industry, state very clearly that the days for paternalism in industrial relations are over and, *moreso*, in the sugar industry which has developed since the Shepherd Report of 1946. The sugar workers of Barbados have had a long and strenuous struggle to build a trade union organisation, and in 1982 we are not prepared to hoist a flag of industrial inferiority as a permanent insult to the workers of Barbados and the sugar workers in particular.

We are aware of the whole history associated with the sugar industry and of the problems experienced by the industry. Many years ago we removed the sugar industry from the arena of being a political football and stated that if we were not going to be recognised as the accredited representatives of the sugar workers, we

were not going to negotiate any further agreements. That was over thirty years ago.

We contend that the cane fields were burnt long before the advent of the trade unions, and there was never any suggestion about owners burning the canes. There seems to be a connection between burnt canes and earnings. We are of the view that a worker has to be paid for the work he performs. This is the role that we adopt in accepting collective bargaining procedures as the most civilised method

of reconciling industrial problems that can become very delicate and over-heated on some occasions.

There is no need for subterfuge or behind-the-counter methods in the sugar industry. If such methods are entered into by any side, it will not be in the best interest of Barbados. It is better to adopt an open door policy and discuss difficult matters without fear and secure the confidence of those who have to produce.

Civil Servants Pay Issue

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Workers' Union says it believes Government can pay an additional Bds \$5 million to civil servants next year following Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams' promise to grant public officers an increase provided there is an improvement in the local economy.

The BWU in its weekly Press statement was reacting to the comment made by Mr. Adams who earlier this year broke off negotiations for increased pay for the workers and offered a final sum of \$25 weekly or \$108 monthly across the board.

The BWU said it wished to point out that at its final meeting with the Prime Minister it had made its position crystal clear in proposing \$25 million this year and an additional \$5 million next year.

This position was further emphasised by the Union's General Secretary, Mr. Frank Walcott, at the BWU's delegates' conference in August.

"The union remains committed to that position which is not conditional 'on an improvement of the economy'".

The Union believes that the Government can pay this additional \$5 million in 1983 "and sees no reason why it cannot be paid."

It reiterated its concern over the rapid decline in genuine collective bargaining in the Public Service.

The BWU said the Public Service "is not a personal possession to be treated at anyone's whim and fancy," but that all matters relating to wages and employment must be negotiated between Government and unions representing the workers.

Compulsory Union Recognition

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Labour is giving active consideration to compulsory recognition of trade unions.

Labour Minister, Mr. Vic Johnson, said yesterday that workers in Barbados enjoy a constitutional right to join trade unions of their choice but there is at present no legislation requiring employers to recognise trade unions.

"I believe that industrial strife in Barbados resulting from issues of recognition although not of regular occurrence can be further minimised by the introduction of some rules on this subject", Mr. Johnson said.

The Minister was addressing a regional seminar for senior labour officials at the Caribbee Hotel, Hastings.

The 10-day seminar on "current trends in industrial relations practices" has been organised by the Barbados-based Caribbean Labour Administration Centre (CLAC).

The 16 participants have been selected from among Labour Ministry-Department officials of 14 of the English

and Dutch-speaking countries of the region.

Mr. Johnson said that employment practices represent another source of industrial conflict.

"It is generally held that it is the employer's right to hire and fire, and to allot work within his organisation. But how far should this right extend?"

Mr. Johnson noted that at this year's International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conference, new instrument dealing with termination of employment at the initiative

of the employer was adopted. The instrument deals with the question of fair and unfair dismissals.

Mr. Johnson said that standards such as these clearly indicate that there needs to be regulation of employment practices in order to ensure that the best interests of all parties are served.

He disclosed that his ministry has under active consideration legislation on this subject in order to give effect to the ILO Convention

which Barbados proposed to ratify.

The Minister also spoke of improving the existing machinery for tripartite consultations.

He said that tripartism is accepted in principle in our dealings with each other, but it often seems that there could be more meaningful consultations providing for greater input into labour matters generally, if government, workers' and employers' representatives could find time to sit together more often.

Warning on Gov't Policy

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Head of the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College, Senator Evelyn Greaves, has cautioned the Barbados Labour force about a new trend in industrial relations by some Caribbean governments who "feel they could dictate to the trade unions what they should take in wage negotiations."

Mr. Greaves identified this new method of intervention by governments and their spokesmen as one of the difficulties now being faced by the trade unions and labelled it as "a challenge to the workers".

"Even before the negotiations between the unions and employers begin, the government spokesmen intervene and say what level of increases should be made to the workers; sometimes they even recommend no pay hikes," said Senator Greaves.

He was addressing more than 150 workers who had participated in the College's programmes during the past six months at their graduation ceremony last Friday evening.

The feature address at the ceremony was delivered by Mr. Burns Bonadie, Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) and the welcome address by Mr. Tennyson Beckles, Tutor at the College.

Senator Greaves described the new ploy by the governments as "dangerous" and said it should be stopped.

Declaring that it was a challenge to the workers, he said that the workers could not sit idly by and allow the collective bargaining process to be eroded.

While recognising that the current period was a time of high unemployment and job scarcity which, as a consequence might cause some workers to be hesitant to speak out, Senator Greaves told the workers not to "compromise on principles."

He described 1982 as a successful year for the college as it had been attended by many workers from the various divisions.

He said the college had observed a keenness among the workers to attend courses but he called for even greater participation in 1983.

The Labour College Head said that the 1982 programme at the Mangrove-based institution had been boosted by the presence of Dr. Alan Le Serve, a specialist in Occupational Safety and Health, who is running the two-year programme, funded by the International Labour Organisation in conjunction with Danish International Development Agency (ILO--DANIDA).

Mr. Beckles lauded the workers who participated in the courses and said the success of the year was reflective in the response by the workers who attended the ceremony.

The workers represented all sectors of economic activity in the country, including tourism manufacturing and the public sector.

They were presented with certificates by Mr. Charles Burnham, an employee of the Transport Board and member of the BWU Executive Council.

CSO: 3298/226

BRIEFS

AIR SERVICE PROPOSALS--The Barbados Government has called for air service talks with the British government to revise the bilateral air agreement which was started since the 1960s. Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Bernard St. John, said that they felt the bilateral agreement at the present time was outdated and needed to be upgraded and revised bearing in mind the development of tourism from Britain and the fact that there was only one gateway out of London. St. John was unable to say what the position would be because nothing as yet had been discussed with the British authorities. However, it is hoped that a service would be resumed from Manchester as there is no link with the northern sections of Britain. The minister also noted that Caribbean Airways, the national airline of Barbados, would be increasing its flights from that market next summer. He said that there would be definitely two services a week and the airline was investigating the economies of a third flight. St. John said that Caribbean Airways had called for bids from the airlines for the service next summer and British Caledonian, which was unable to provide an aircraft this winter, would be bidding along with Martinair and BWIA. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 24 Nov 82 p 22]

NEW POLICE PROGRAM--A Resident Beat Officer scheme, a new style of policing within the Royal Barbados Police Force, comes into being here on December 6. Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Police Affairs, Mr. Louis Tull, said yesterday that the scheme would be introduced on an experimental basis, "should play a significant part in our efforts to reduce and detect crime." Addressing the 76th passing out parade at the Regional Police Training Centre, Mr. Tull said that the scheme will, for the time being be confined to policing within Central Police Station in Bridgetown. He said that the scheme which was intended to form part of a new policing approach under the direction of a Press and Community Relations Department, would have as its main objectives, the forging of effective community relations; and the development of a structure which would ultimately prove to be a major source of assistance to the Police Force in its uphill struggle against crime. Mr. Tull said the scheme was one in which selected constables will be assigned to work in specific areas giving such areas their personal and undivided attention for a protracted period of up to three years. "The role of such an officer would be to project the image of a community policeman," said Mr. Tull. He said that the policeman would patrol the area to which he has been assigned in uniform, and would be expected to develop worthwhile relations with residents and people working in the area. [Excerpts] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Nov 82 p 22]

DROP IN GDP--The Barbados economy contracted in the first 10 months this year with real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) falling by five per cent, Central Bank Governor Dr. Courtney Blackman has reported. Dr. Blackman told a news conference yesterday there had been no pick-up in foreign demand for local goods, and services. "However, strict controls on domestic credit and Government expenditure prevented any substantial loss of foreign exchange reserves," he declared. Dr. Blackman noted that the rate of inflation had eased significantly, with prices rising 12 per cent, if measured as the average of the last 12 months over the corresponding 12 months, compared with 14.5 per cent for 1981. Earnings from the tourist and sugar sectors were down, and the growth of the manufacturing sector remained sluggish. The foreign exchange earnings from these three sectors were about Bds \$20 million less than in 1981. He said the only significant foreign inflows were to finance the cement plant and a power project. Imports grew very slowly, the stagnation of output reduced the demand for intermediate goods, and together with expenditure curbs, curtailed consumer imports as well. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Nov 82 p 1]

NEW LABOR CHIEF--Mr. Grey Forde has been appointed to the post of Chief Labour Officer, Labour Department, with effect from December 1, 1982. Mr. Forde, who previously held the post of deputy chief establishments officer, entered the Public Service in May 1951. He has worked in the law courts, the Financial Secretary's Office, the National Insurance Office, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Communications and Works. The chief labour officer was educated at Hillaby Mixed School, St. Thomas, and the Alleyne School. In 1970, he obtained the diploma in public administration from the University of the West Indies. The following year, he attended the senior labour administrators course in Jamaica. In 1973, Mr. Forde did a course in personnel administration at the Royal Institute of Public Administration, London, and a course in management at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. In 1978, he received further training in personnel management and industrial relations. This stint of training took place at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Mr. Grey Forde is married to Joan Forde (nee Worrell) and has two sons, Philip and Patrick. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Dec 82 p 1]

PENSION INCREASES--Government pensioners are to receive increases ranging from a minimum of \$40 to a maximum of \$81 monthly. Minister of Finance Tom Adams, announced this increased benefit for senior citizens in the House of Assembly Friday, but said he could not promise that pensioners would necessarily get their back pay this month. Provision for increased pensions is contained in a resolution to be brought by the finance minister for supplementary estimates of \$2.5 million. The increase to pensioners amounts to some 15 percent. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 5 Dec 82 p 1]

CSO: 3298/227

FEW CHANGES FOLLOWING CUT CONGRESS

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Nov 82 p 8A

[Text] Only two important changes in leadership emerged from the United Workers Federation [CUT], an organization which yesterday concluded its second congress with the election of its board which will be in power for 2 years.

The only changes were those of president and second undersecretary general. These posts were held by Mr Mario Devandas and Mr Timothy Scoot who were replaced by Mr Isaias Marchena and Mr Carlos Luis Chacon, respectively.

Marchena is president of the Golfito Workers Union [UGT], and Chacon is the secretary general of the Union of National Railway Workers of the Atlantic [SITRA-FENAT].

According to the electoral commission, Dr Maria de los Angeles Giralt was named vice president, attorney Rodrigo Urena as secretary general and Mr Luis Carlos Montero as first undersecretary general. The new directors were elected virtually unanimously by the general assembly.

The national CUT board of directors is comprised of 50 members and includes the secretary general of the National Association of Educators, Mr Orlando Solano. Other well-known board members are the current secretary general of the Social Security Employees Union [UNDECA], Ligia Serrano, and also leaders of the banana growers unions like Herminio Dover, Jesus Campos and Santos Obando Obando.

No Changes

The new president declared yesterday that "there will be no changes in the political philosophy of the federation." He added that only some minor shifts will be made based on the need for "improved clarification of union principles."

He also stated that a fight will be waged against the continual increase in the cost of living. He further affirmed that he will attempt to promote better dialogue based on his own experience and that of the other members of the board.

Internal Democracy

Both Representative Arnoldo Ferreto (United People - San Jose) and the former legislator for that same organization, Mr Humberto Vargas Carbonel, stated that the CUT election was carried out within the principles of internal democracy which characterize that organization.

Ferreto explained that the replacement of Devandas by Marchena, as well as the other replacement, are products of a "mature union movement."

Vargas Carbonel stated that Devandas was not a candidate for the presidency because his name was not put forward and because he did not want to be reelected. Vargas indicated that "Devandas is now involved in other matters of a personal nature."

The congress, which began last Friday and took place in the gymnasium at the Colegio Superior de Senoritas, was dedicated to Narciso Morales Valdelomar, a banana worker who died in a confrontation with police during a strike in the Sixaola region in January of the previous year.

During the congress, matters relating to government taxation and the increase in the cost of living were discussed.

9787

CSO: 3248/356

ARDE ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO PEOPLE, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Dec 82 p 20

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), departing from a responsible and coherent plan within the framework of the Nicaraguan revolution, in its pronouncements and statements has always had as a common denominator to uphold any proposal that carries with it the possibility of peace and stability in Nicaragua and in the Central American area. It has also been our criterion and conviction that up until now there has been no truth nor intention on the part of FSLN's (Sandinist National Liberation Front) leadership to find nationwide and popular solutions such as the people demand at the current crossroads.

After almost 4 years of revolution, the continuing deterioration of the nation in its political, economical and social life is increasing more and more, removing irreversibly from us the initial balance that brought us triumph, and the danger of another war with its measure of bloodshed, sorrow and destruction, is at our doorstep. The achievement and consolidation of peace in Nicaragua is an inescapable step in stabilizing Central America. There will be no peace in Central America if there is no peace in Nicaragua.

Peace initiations made by friendly countries like Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras and Venezuela, as well as France, have unfortunately not had the needed effectiveness to bring about the desired stability and peace. The best intentions at the national level have not had the force, either, to become positive factors that bring about viable solutions.

We welcome seriously and with enthusiasm the responsible and opportune position recently presented by the prime minister of Sweden, the social democrat Olaf Palme, wherein he clearly states that the best way to resolve current Central American conflicts is through political solutions which should be immediate and without preconditions.

We should, nonetheless, not forget the historical repudiation the Nicaraguan people have in everything that means pacts or compromises for gaining power or its share of the power. This has forced it to leave thousands of its dead in the fields and cities. Anything that is not in opposition to that people, with their free participation, can be viable or possible.

For that reason, we Nicaraguans, as defenders of sovereignty, as true democrats and revolutionaries, consider it an unpostponable duty to exhaust all roads to peace without renouncing our principles. Along with this, we see the electoral process as the only viable way out in order to avoid violence; an electoral process defined with the necessary verifiable guarantees, so that for the first time in its history our people can elect their governing officials with true freedom. That it be a suffrage wherein the will of the people, who brought down the most bloody dictatorship in America, can be expressed and, at this stage, it now knows that it is the most effective way to achieve peace, democracy, stability and progress in its revolution.

We should remember that the present regime has an inescapable commitment to the Nicaraguan revolution and to the Latin American nations, subscribed to before 19 July 79, whose central point includes "free elections as soon as possible," the basis upon which the people placed "provisional power in the hands of the Government of National Reconstruction, as originally constituted." This commitment has not been fulfilled.

Time is a decisive factor in the credulity and fulfillment of this revolutionary duty: Sandino's homeland. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's homeland, is being destroyed in gigantic stages; the present solution accentuates even more a dialog by the two extremes, generating conflicts without precedents in our national history; it is a revolutionary duty to take the country out of the terrible crisis it is living through under present circumstances. Therefore, to speak of elections in 1985 is irresponsible and untimely.

For this reason, the electoral process should be started as quickly as possible with the election of a constituent assembly no later than June 1983. Controlled and honest elections where true popular expression is molded, with all political sectors in the country taking part, which does not attempt a return to the past nor to totalitarianism. Political organizations will have at least 4 months to carry out their electoral campaigns with guarantees by a regulatory commission in the electoral process and with full exercise of political liberties and, especially, an unrestricted freedom of the press.

We are convinced that peace and stability in the region can only be attained, when in obedience to its own particularities, each country achieves development of its own viable national political solutions.

That is the way we understand that is the way it should be understood by truly democratic countries and organizations which are genuinely interested in peace in Central America.

Free elections, synonym for peace democracy, stability and revolution.

Long live Nicaragua!!! Long live Central America!!! Long live the Revolution!!!

San Jose, Costa Rica, 16 Dec 82

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY ALLIANCE (ARDE)

REVOLUTIONARY DIRECTORY

Eden Pastora G.
Brooklyn Rivera

Fernando Chamorro
Alfonso Robelo C.

9908
CSO: 3248/383

PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER REJECTS CRITICISMS

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 21 Nov 82 ENFOQUE Supplement pp 1C, 3C

[Article by Edgar Fonseca]

[Text] "I am being accused of very bad faith when in truth, if my words and deeds are studied, I believe that I have always maintained a position in agreement with President Monge, to whom I owe my loyalty, to whom I profess political admiration and to whom I acknowledge the undeniable merit of a democratic faith serving the enormous majority of our people in the social area."

A practicing Catholic, a democrat "by conviction" as he defines himself, 38 years old, married, seven children and minister of public security since last 8 May, Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon has been a polemic figure during these 6 months.

Doubtless, his focus on the handling of relations with Nicaragua, his viewpoint on the situation in Central America and his insistence that one must give the Costa Rican people not only security and order, but also social justice, are factors contributing to the fact that he is sometimes even characterized as "being out of place" within the current administration.

Nevertheless, he vehemently rejects that.

Instead, he indicated that he has fully complied with what is stipulated in the government's program "let us return to the land," in regard to the combination of the concepts security-order and progress-change. Six months after taking over a cabinet position in which he had no prior experience, he is visibly embittered by the criticism of "bad faith" made against him, as he reiterated.

Nevertheless, he is also optimistic. "I feel that in recent weeks the ministry has been molding something more up-to-date, more practical, with a guard that is more capable and better trained. The objectives have been defined and that is important," he affirmed.

"I am disturbed by the lack of a budget and resources, but through mysterious means we are making progress in that, and I believe that we are going to give

the country a competent Public Force, guarantor of the democratic system, of legality and that our citizens will continue living in peace and liberty," he stated.

Nicaragua

The greatest criticism of his work has come about because of his way of handling security relations with Nicaragua. He insists that there has been "bad faith" by interested sectors seeking to get him to quarrel specifically with Minister of Foreign Affairs Fernando Volio, ardent defender of the idea that Costa Rica has a perpetual right of free transit across the San Juan River, the border. "I have never questioned that," he declared.

It was pointed out to him that the clash between him and the foreign affairs minister is evident, to which he responded: "It is a confrontation that others have sought to adopt."

Asked to identify those "others," he answered: "At this time I do not want to add more fuel to the fire. For me it is a closed subject, since my obligation is to a government in which there should be a single course of action and in which we should discuss house affairs internally."

"I will not," he elaborated, "any longer be involved in polemics of a personal nature or with other cabinet members or party comrades."

In regard to his perspective on the course of the Nicaraguan revolution, Minister Solano was questioned about whether the powerful Sandinist military apparatus constituted a danger for our country.

"It is evident," he responded, "that to the extent that the bordering country arms itself more than necessary it indicates a danger for the other country, in the event that they are not able to control their own forces."

He believes that Nicaragua can become a threat if the intentions of its leaders were to intervene in our internal affairs or if they seek to use force to transform the national political system.

It was pointed out to him that the Sandinists are accused of supporting expansionist Soviet-Cuban policy in the Central American area and he responded: "Communism is expansive by nature. Marxism-Leninism is likewise expansive, so that the problem is in defining whether Nicaragua has already really become a Marxist-Leninist regime and whether their leaders want to spread their revolution."

Here, on analyzing the situation of the said country, Minister Solano declared: "Nicaragua sees itself corralled internationally, which could mistakenly cause its leaders to consummate what is now a saying: that it has become a Marxist-Leninist revolution of the totalitarian type."

He attributed this corraling to "some democratic nations" that he preferred not to enumerate.

Nevertheless, he is of the belief that the problem of the political regime that Nicaragua should select is the responsibility of its citizens. "It is a matter to be discussed by them. We have enough problems without diverting our attention to things that should be resolved by another nation," he added.

The official is in favor of maintaining "normal relations" with the said nation, "in spite of the fact that I am not in agreement with its political system."

In regard to the arms race in which the Nicaraguans have embarked, he thinks that Costa Rica will not become involved in what generally happens in these cases; to arm itself to an equal or greater degree.

Minister Solano declared himself enamored with "worldwide disarmament" and he lamented that there are nations devoting large sums to the war apparatus, taking resources away from use in health, housing and education. "Costa Rica is not going to follow that road. That is the great difference with other nations of Central America. We are not going to militarize, and we are not going to create an army," he elaborated.

"Our great moral support among the democratic nations is in not having an army. At a given time or if there be a problem we have sufficient authority in the world to resort to international legal instruments, in case of a danger to peace and tranquility," he said.

Central America

After 6 months in office he indicates that he has dealt most with "the friends of the Panamanian National Guard." He has not had the slightest contact with Honduran, Salvadoran or Guatemalan military people. Contact with the Nicaraguans was limited to the visit that he made in Granada in August.

"I have devoted myself almost entirely to national problems, because I believe that at this time the basic need is to guarantee Costa Rica's internal security, I have not had much time to develop relations in the Central America area," he indicated.

He does not hesitate to state that in Central American nations there is a need for a democratic opening through which free and democratic elections may be guaranteed and citizens may have the right to go to the ballot box to choose their leaders.

"I believe in political plurality. A regime of parties is necessary, in the same way that economic and social reforms must also be sought to fully guarantee social justice," he stated.

"Paul VI," he mentioned, "said that if you want peace, work for justice. That should be the course of the nations of Central America that now find themselves in the lamentable situation of war."

Despite the constant predictions in Central American capitals that there will soon be war, Minister Solano commented that for now it is difficult for him to see a conflict breaking out.

"I think that there is an enormous cold war. The hot war is occurring in the interior of every country," he indicated, and he felt that that was due to internal and external forces influencing the situation. He believes that the problem is aggravated when there is trouble between extremist forces of the Right and Left eliminating the chance for a democratic solution.

"That is the reason for the desire to find solutions that guarantee the efficacy of democratic institutions through structural reforms in the social area," he insisted.

Freedom and Hunger

The serious economic and social situation being experienced by the country with nearly 100,000 unemployed and the worsening poverty are factors that, in the opinion of Minister Solano, are being used indiscriminately by demographic sectors interested in taking advantage of the situation. Some of those sectors raise their voices in defense of the needy and for social justice, "but they do it drowning out the cries for freedom," he declared, warning: "I do not want the freedom to starve to death."

"Neither would I want to be very well fed," he said, "if I do not have the freedom to express myself as an individual, as a person. I do not accept talk about social justice when to attain it human rights are violated, public freedoms are infringed and the most fundamental legal principles are trampled."

In passing he lashed out at those sectors in our country that ask only for freedom. Freedom for what? he asked himself, adding: "To continue to exploit? To speculate? No. That is why I am in agreement with President Monge."

In regard to President Monge's constant attacks against Creole communism, Minister Solano said that he had the impression that there are sectors within the Popular Vanguard Party that are still calling for a democratic definition here. "Nevertheless," he added, "there are emerging sectors that presumably want to go faster, and they mistakenly think that conditions are right for achieving their objectives by way of violence."

"I hope and am confident that the mature line for party dialog will continue," he said. Although he does not expect that the occasion will ever arise, he put off for a later time his opinion on an eventual proscription of communism.

No Yes-Men

For Minister Solano the differences between those comprising the executive branch are logical. He affirmed that, as in a family, there are different characters.

He then considered reasonable the attitude of President Monge of seeking harmony. "In this there is nothing to question," he said. Nevertheless, he pointed out: "Neither is the president asking for a government of 'yes-men' as occurred in the past."

"President Monge," he commented, has been given a heavy cross: to save the credibility of the country's leaders and I trust that he is doing it. Secondly, to take the nation out of this terrible economic, fiscal and social crisis left to us by the previous administration. The government is making an enormous effort and the economy is being reactivated."

In regard to security, as he indicated, there have been constant efforts to obtain from Western democratic nations the necessary aid for the Public Force.

And in the controversial area of guaranteeing the country's neutrality in the conflicts of the Central American countries, Minister Solano said that he had been "loyal and faithful to the president."

In the specific case of Nicaragua, there has been continued firmness so that they do not interfere in our internal affairs, and also to preclude the organization or carrying out of aggression against that country from here. "I am doing the best I can, trying to be worthy of the confidence of the president," he indicated. Perhaps inspired by his seven children, he puts a lot of effort, as he declared, into trying to advance the objectives of security. The ideal is to turn over to future generations a democratic and free fatherland in which peace and social justice are interwoven constantly and decidedly, he affirmed.

"I have given an accentuated social content to my democratic conviction, as most of us have done who have been active in the political party that brought us to power," he said.

"What is happening is that many times to raise the flag for social demands means the pain that out of ignorance people will identify us within leftist or communist currents, without realizing that we are giving to the enemies of democracy those flags that we have the moral authority to support and defend," he concluded.

9746

CSO: 3248/358

BRIEFS

INFLATION RATE STATISTICS--San Jose--Inflation increased to 86 percent in October according to the Ministry of Finance department of statistics. The figure confirms the continuation of an upward tendency which has already reached alarming proportions last December, coinciding with a monetary devaluation which created grave problems for the national economy. The inflation rate will be between 95 and 100 percent at the end of the current year according to the price index for middle income consumers in the metropolitan area. Even when the growth of inflation begins to be controlled, it will not be stopped until the middle of next year. The government offers hope for a reduction to a 35 percent inflation rate for next year as a result of strict controls which it was forced to adopt in the wake of the economic crisis. The exchange rate, which was almost 65 colons per dollar at the beginning of the year, is currently about 46 per dollar which represents a decrease in devaluation to a little more than 39 percent. Unemployment has also risen to unprecedented levels, and the Central Bank warns that the unemployment rate will probably continue to rise during the coming year, especially in the metropolitan area where most of the country's labor force is concentrated. According to approximate figures, there will be some 134,000 people out of work in a labor force estimated at slightly less than a million people. [Text] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Nov p 2] 9787

EXPORTS, IMPORTS STATISTICS--San Jose--The Economic Council yesterday analyzed export and import figures for the year based on computer projections. The data is as follows: at the end of this year, there will be about \$900 million in imports (last year there were more than \$1 billion). There will be about \$1.085 billion in exports (there were about a billion in 1981). This data reflects a strict control on imports due to high taxes on luxury items and an increase in exports during the last months of the year. Therefore there is a positive trade balance of \$185 million. The council heard a report yesterday by the minister of agriculture, Francisco Morales Hernandez, about the Tempisque irrigation project and also a report by Engineer Rodolfo Silva, Dr Carlos Manuel Castillo and Dr Federico Vargas about proposals for paying the foreign debt. The situation in Costa Rica is clear; the country cannot promise to pay what it does not have. The country will not compromise its slim balance of trade to pay its foreign debt, for in doing so, the production system of the country would be jeopardized. Following the report, the coordinator of the council, Engineer Alberto Fait, explained in response to questions by reporters that the debt of delinquent interest payments with 150 commercial banks (\$1.1 billion is owed) will be negotiated. The country has only \$170 million available for making payments in 1983. [Text] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Nov 82 p 3] 9787

PRICE INDEX STATISTICS--The growth rate of the price index passed the 100 percent mark last October when it reached 100.86 percent, according to a study by the Census and Statistics Directorate. The study states that in October 1981, the annual rate of increase was 48.95 percent but in 1982 "all the main categories experienced large rates of increase." The study points out that for foodstuff the rate of rise in price in 1982 was 123.82 percent while in 1981 it was just 56.19 percent. Clothing went up in 1982 by 102.65 percent while in 1981 it was 44.80 percent. Housing went up by 60.11 percent in 1982 as opposed to 38.97 percent in 1981. Finally, the study shows that the price increase of miscellaneous items was 99.73 percent in 1982 as compared to only 48.21 percent in 1981. However, the study contains an interesting fact: the September-October 1982 relative price change was less than during the same period in 1981; that is, the rise in price index in September-October 1982 was 3.04 percent. It was 7.16 percent for same period in 1981. [Text] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Dec 82 p 3] 9204

CSO: 3248/379

GRENADIAN MINISTER RECALLS 'BLOODY SUNDAY'

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 18 Nov 82 p 5

[Report on interview with NJM Leader Hudson Austin by Jorge Luna; date and place not given]

[Text] On this day, 9 years ago, in the small locality of Grenville, Maurice Bishop and five other leaders of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) were brutally beaten by agents of the repressive regime of Eric Gairy.

The six young revolutionaries were near death on 18 November 1973, known from that day on and forever as "Bloody Sunday." The Grenadian Revolution, which happily triumphed on 13 March 1979, would have lost its most distinguished combatants.

Hudson Austin, one of the founders of the NJM and presently a member of its politburo as well as a member of the ministerial cabinet, was one of the protagonists in this fighting incident.

In an exclusive interview, Austin, who is also Chief of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), recalled how the present Prime Minister Maurice Bishop shared a cell with him and the other five leaders at the police station in Grenville. "Comrade Maurice was in bad condition. I had to place his head all covered with blood on my legs, but he kept on bleeding all through the night and until dawn," Austin declared.

"He could not move his head," he continued, "they had broken his jaw. I thought he had also lost an eye. As a matter of fact, he could not open it for several weeks. I was very worried because I thought Comrade Bishop would die that night."

Unison Whiteman, the present foreign minister, Selwyn Strachan, minister of national mobilization and Kenrick Radix, minister of justice, suffered serious wounds also. They are all members of the NJM politburo. Besides Austin, the leader Simon Daniels and two other young revolutionaries shared the same cell.

They had arrived at Grenville that afternoon to explain to a group of local businessmen the objective of their call for a general strike and to request their cooperation. But as soon as they stepped out of their cars, a large

contingent of policemen and uniformed soldiers as well as the secret agents known as "The Mongoose Gang" attacked the group with axe handles, sticks and firearms.

Some of the victims were able to take refuge in a nearby house while the assailants fired at them. But Maurice Bishop, who was 29 years old at the time and not accustomed to running as a result of his height, received multiple blows. "The Mongoose Gang" jumped on him as soon as he fell to the ground.

Bishop told the author that on one occasion he was able to find protection behind a neighboring house when the agents opened fire. Bishop thought then that he would not make it alive. "Frankly speaking, at that moment I thought that we would not come out alive... Shots were coming from everywhere. They kept on firing at us. It was obvious that they were going to kill us," he said.

Austin recalls the occasion and notes, "Finally, they took all of us to the police station in Grenville where they incarcerated us, tried to shave our heads and threatened us. We spent the night without any type of medical attention."

On the next day, the group was taken to Judge Duncan who denied them any kind of bail and sent them to the prison in Richmond Hill, in the Grenadian capital.

But meanwhile the strike called for by the different organizations opposed to the regime gained strength precisely because of the repression on "Bloody Sunday." They immobilized all sectors of the country with dozens of street demonstrations.

In fact, these protests lasted throughout the remaining part of 1973 up to 21 January 1974, another historic date in Grenada, known as "Bloody Monday," the day the police killed at close range Rupert Bishop, Maurice's father.

Austin believed that both dates marked "the beginning of the fall of the dictatorship." They are both commemorated yearly in Grenada now.

Austin declared that 1973 and 1974, years of the greatest resistance to governmental violence, are deeply engraved in the hearts and minds of all Grenadians because, as he said, "we see in those dates the historical moment in which the people of Grenada united in a common objective: the moment in which people stood up against the dictatorship, the brutality, the kidnappings and the assassinations."

Even though Eric Gairy could not be overthrown until 13 March 1979, the day in which Austin together with Bishop and other leaders of the NJM carried out the lightning "Operation Apple," those two years represented the beginning of the end of the regime. Austin described it as follows: "After these dates, the regime was never again able to govern easily. Never again were they able to feel at ease with a movement such as the NJM operating in Grenada," he stressed.

During the years prior to Gairy's overthrow the NJM had to go through different forms and stages of struggle. Austin remembered how the movement, in spite of

all the repression, was achieving all its political objectives. "Even when the NJM was forced to operate clandestinely due to the many repressive laws which restricted us from acting legally, we were always able to send the message of liberation to the people."

It is for this reason that on 13 March 1979 when Maurice Bishop, Hudson Austin and the other leaders exhorted the people to go out into the streets and overthrow the regime, everybody put aside whatever they were doing and devoted themselves to defending the rising revolution.

In the nearly four years of the revolutionary process, constantly threatened by the North American government and its allies in the region, the government of Grenada has attained much for its people. In its literacy campaign and in the realization of its successful national program of public health as well as in other economic and social programs, the country is moving forward in achieving its development plan which will guarantee its economic take-off: the international airport of Grenada, where hundreds of Cuban construction workers are participating in an act of solidarity with the Grenadian people.

On the eve of the fourth anniversary of the Revolution, Austin spoke about his permanent concern, the national defense. This has been in Austin's mind since the day of the triumph in 1979.

Austin recalled that soon after the Grenadian victory, some eastern Caribbean governments came up with the idea of creating a "Regional Defense Force."

But the objectives of this idea, encouraged by the U.S. and Great Britain, were never very clear, according to various Caribbean analysts.

In subsequent secret meetings and others which were not so secret, involving military personnel from Barbados, St Vincent, Dominica, St Lucia and Antigua, this topic was further developed. But Grenada was always excluded from these meetings. The same Caribbean analysts, concerned with the growing militarization of the region where the United States undertakes numerous warlike maneuvers, began to worry that this military pact could be manipulated to even act against the Grenadian revolution.

The subject, which is now being studied by the heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, was also analyzed by the chief of the Grenadian Army.

"We believe that the Regional Defense Force must protect the Caribbean region because as we have stated the Caribbean region must be a zone of peace. We are opposed to foreign bases and troops in any Caribbean country, including, of course, Puerto Rico. By zone of peace we mean an area where the Caribbean governments and peoples can live and grow in peace, without fear of any foreign interference or intervention," he stated.

Austin added, "That organization should protect our waters and our skies from hostile military maneuvers. It should prevent mercenary invasions of our Caribbean countries. It should not be controlled by imperialist forces which

always try to manipulate organizations such as this for their own benefit." He stressed that "First of all, that force must be under the direction and guidance of the Caribbean people."

He also commented that the creation of this military pact would be very difficult without the participation of all Caribbean countries. The supervision and control of that force will have to have very precise regulations. For example he asked: "What will that force consist of, who will belong to it, where will they be trained, who will train them, what will the main role of that force be?"

The Grenadian military chief went on to talk about his government's view on this topic: "We will respect that force as long as it is structured correctly, as long as its objective is to keep the Caribbean region as a zone of peace, as long as it respects the people and the different governments of the area and as long as that force includes a Special Commission to oversee it."

In closing the interview, the popular leader of the NJM and Minister of Construction and Communications warned about the dangers of the planned organization. "All the islands have, for example, common sea borders. For this reason it will be very difficult to patrol these borders if any of the countries is excluded from the pact." He warned that "This could bring us closer to war than to peace."

12301

CSO: 3248/351

BRIEFS

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS--Havana (AIN)--To strengthen the knowledge and relations between the Cuban and Finnish peoples is the objective of an agreement signed yesterday by the Cuban Friendship Association with the Nordic countries and the Finland-Cuba Friendship Association. The document was signed by the respective presidents of these institutions, Jose R. Fernandez, a member of the Party Central Committee, and Kaj Barlund. Rene Rodriguez, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples (ICAP) and a member of the Party Central Committee, Karina Suonio, Finland's Minister of Culture, and other members of the Finnish delegation which is currently visiting Cuba were also present. [Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 4 Nov 82 p 3] 12301

CSO: 3248/351

BRIEFS

FARMERS' STAND ON BANANA PLAN--Roseau, Dominica--General secretary of the Dominica Farmers' Union (DFU), Richard Charles, has said there is a need to reorganise the vital, banana industry, but has expressed reservations about government's own plans in this direction. In an address to the fourth annual general meeting of the 2 500-strong union, Charles said the DFU recognised that the industry has to be re-examined and its role restructured. Charles, whose union has already stated that it would not support the government's intention to reorganise the industry by placing ownership in the hands of private concerns, said the DFU was calling for the reconstituting of the Dominica Banana Growers' Association board to allow for 50 percent farmers' representation. The Dominica Government has been holding discussions with farmers throughout the island, informing them of the need to reorganise the industry, which it has proposed to do under an agreement with the United States Agency for International Development, (USAID). But the DFU official accused the government of entering into the agreement without the knowledge of the farmers and their organisation. "In this regard, the union is calling on the government to stop playing games with this vital industry and set up a timetable whereby the DFU, the association, the Dominica Amalgamated Workers Union and the Association of Professional Agriculturists will meet to discuss the best workable structure for the banana industry," he said. (CANA) [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 2 Dec 82 p 7]

BANANA EXPORT PREDICTION--Roseau, Dominica, Thursday (CANA)--Banana exports here are expected to fall short of the anticipated 25 000 tons this year, the Dominica Banana Growers Association (DBGA) has said. The association, the Quasi government agency which administers the industry, said that this was because many growers are not making a big enough effort at rescuing the vital but troubled industry. The disclosure was made in the association's newsletter, a few weeks before the December 20 annual general meeting of the DBGA which will be addressed by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and Agriculture Minister, Heskeith Alexander. According to the latest figures put out by the association, at the end of September, just over 18 000 tons of bananas had been shipped to the island's main market in the United Kingdom, a drop of nearly 2 000 tons from last year's figure. The newsletter said that "today, things have changed, for 1982 we will hardly achieve more than 25 000 tons of export fruit." [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Dec 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/222

OFFICIAL DOUBTFUL OF ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT FOR 1983

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Dec 82 p A 1

[Text] The year 1982 has been very difficult, and for 1983 the prospects for the future economy do not show any signs of improvement, because there are factors that persist, especially in the international economy. Some analysts believe the economy may begin to recover in the second half of 1983, according to Ernesto Alban Gomez, secretary general of the Administration.

He added that the country must be ready to endure a difficult situation, and all Ecuadoreans must be fully aware of this.

During an improvised press conference, he said that government officials are extremely concerned because the nature of the situation remains unchanged.

As for politics, the official observed that 1983 will be a key year for the country's political life. "It is expected," he noted, "that the electoral campaign will begin in the early months of the year. We will also have the regular session of the Chamber of Representatives, the last one of the regular term."

He explained that the 1983 political calendar will be very hectic.

Once again he denied that any cabinet shake-up is about to take place, squelching rumors of the departure of three ministers. "We have already said that there is no reason for any cabinet shake-up. That assertion has no basis in fact," he said.

He stressed that the agriculture minister's position is solid, and remarked that the problems in that ministry are manifold, and are unfortunately aggravated by circumstances that are beyond its control, such as prolonged and anticipated floods and rains.

"For that reason," he said, "President Hurtado will travel to Guayaquil to sign a decree providing 500 million sucres in special financing, so that the flood-damaged farmers can recover."

As for the foreign debt, he noted that there is no secrecy; these matters can be dealt with publicly.

He indicated that there is a natural and indispensable reserve, because many interests are at stake. He explained that more than 100 banks are creditors of this country. There is a Negotiation Committee, and a mission of the International Monetary Fund has intervened. "Thus," he said, "any advance statement that might reveal the course of the negotiations could be detrimental."

"What can be revealed, and has already been reported, is that the efforts at renegotiation are proceeding well. The Negotiating Committee's attitude is very favorable to Ecuador, because it feels that this country's economy is viable. Therefore, there is optimism about the terms of the renegotiation."

He estimated that the renegotiation would be completed by the first months of next year.

Regarding a threatened strike by the Single Workers Front (FUT), Alban Gomez stated that it would be necessary to study the labor union's demands and determine the grounds for them, and then to provide a response. "Actually," he stated, "I would say that at this time the situation has not changed since November, when the FUT resolved not to carry out the strike. I think the situation is the same. Therefore, I do not think any change in attitude is justified," he concluded.

8926

CSO: 3348/149

MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT SAYS HUMAN RIGHTS RESPECTED

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Dec 82 p A 1

[Text] Minister of Government Galo Garcia claimed yesterday that human rights are not violated in Ecuador, and recalled that a few days ago an international conference on this issue was held in Quito. The participants determined that this would be a propitious place for holding a meeting of this nature.

Speaking about the possibility of a guerrilla outbreak in Ecuador, the political minister explained that as of December 1982, that is not an issue. "I think," he said, "that recently there have been signs that would point to that risk, but we do not see any structuring that would imply that we need to confront a macrosocial problem in this regard."

"I believe," he added, "that we are facing a situation that deserves all necessary attention and care, and I would say not just on the part of the government, but by all of us who have positions of responsibility in the country, in political leadership, the mass media, the police, the government, so that we will not take an apparently dialectical approach to this issue, but rather will deal with it seriously."

When asked whether Ecuador's situation is such that the guerrilla phenomenon will not appear, he answered that in his opinion, based not only on intelligence reports but also on his analysis as a common citizen, such a development is not likely because these affairs are determined by not only national decisions, but certainly also international decisions.

When asked if he would deny that international extremist elements have connections with certain political movements in the interior of the country, he indicated that no conclusion can be reached about this subject, but the currents of political life in the world can be felt, not just in the 20th century, when the interdependence of nations is a symptom of our times, but also in earlier centuries.

"I believe," he said, "that the terrorist family in the world has certain traits in common that lead them to help each other."

In response to a question about the results of the investigations regarding the possible link between foreigners and local organizations or movements

that disturbed the country a few months ago, he cited the specific case of an Englishman who was arrested recently for leading a demonstration in one of the cities of our country.

"We have taken action on the matter," he said. "He was given until yesterday to leave Ecuador, so he can never reside here again from this day on."

Referring to the joint operations being prepared by the Colombian and Ecuadorian armies to counter guerrilla activity on the northern border, he explained that this matter does not concern the Government Ministry, but rather the National Defense Ministry.

The minister of government, he pointed out, is concerned with activities carried out or to be carried out by foreigners in Ecuador.

He revealed that his ministry was alerted to the fact that two Colombian journalists arrived in Quito, went to the Ecuadorean Amazon, and from there went to Colombian territory; then they returned to Ecuadorean territory, following the same route to and from their country of origin as that organized by the M-19.

"This alarmed me," he said, "and shows that there are connections. Although it does not mean that guerrillas have taken out naturalization papers in our country, it is unacceptable for our country to be used as a passageway, or for an Amazon province to be used for that purpose."

8926

CSO: 3348/149

DEPOSITS INCREASE FOR SIX LARGEST BANKS

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Dec 82 p A 1

[Text] Despite the adverse indicators of the national economy, the six largest private banks in the country increased their total deposits by an average of 801.2 million sucres over the course of a year, according to a special report provided by the Superintendency of Banks. This report covered the period between 28 September 1981 and 24 September 1982.

The average increase was the equivalent of 22.7 percent, but some banks, such as Pacifico, reported an absolute increase in deposits of 1,648,500,000 sucres, going from 4,889,600,000 to 6,538,100,000, a 33.7 percent growth rate.

The Banco Popular grew by 31.1 percent, with an absolute change of 667 million sucres. Pichincha saw its deposits rise by 1,155,600,000 (18.4 percent); Filanbanco experienced a growth of 804.4 million (24.8 percent); Previsora 319.3 million (16 percent); and Descuento, 212.5 million (12.4 percent).

Although all six banks experienced a percentage rise in their notes due, experts believe that this is still a manageable amount. Previsora had the highest increase during this period, with 32 percent; the lowest was Pacifico, with 9 percent. Pichincha had notes due amounting to 12.4 percent; Filanbanco 16.6 percent; Guayaquil 14.6 percent; and Banco Popular, 13.2 percent.

The above figures do not include debts in foreign currency. These, including special guarantee endorsements, totaled 48.8 percent at the Banco de Guayaquil on the aforementioned date; 13 percent at Pacifico; 9.8 percent at Pichincha; 28.2 percent at Previsora; 19.8 percent at Filanbanco; and 7.1 percent at Popular. Only two banks managed to reduce their percentage during the period covered by the report: Pichincha, from 11.1 percent to 9.8 percent; and Pacifico, from 14.0 to 13.0 percent.

Analysis of the figures also reveals that the movement of bank transactions is significantly acceptable, despite the prevailing economic conditions of the country. Here are the tables showing the absolute and percentage figures, as of last 28 September:

	(1) ACTIVOS	(2) CARTERA	(3) CREDITO	(4) AVALES
PACIFICO	21366.2	6791.8	5235.1	5612.5
PICHINCHA	13771.1	5689.2	1535.6	2671.8
PREVISORA	8164.1	5019.0	259.2	262.8
FILANBANCO	10933.6	3718.0	1548.5	2010.6
GUAYAQUIL	7783.8	2942.9	565.2	847.2
POPULAR	9225.9	2479.5	2672.6	3330.1

(5) PORCENTAJES

	ACTIVOS	CARTERA	CARTAS DE CREDITO	AVALES
PACIFICO	15.44	14.58	20.14	19.90
PICHINCHA	9.95	12.21	5.91	9.47
PREVISORA	5.90	10.77	1.00	0.93
FILANBANCO	7.90	7.98	5.96	7.13
GUAYAQUIL	5.82	6.32	2.17	3.00
POPULAR	6.67	5.32	10.28	11.81

Key:

1. Assets
2. Portfolio
3. Letters of Credit
4. Special Guarantee Endorsements
5. Percentages

8926

CSO: 3348/149

GOVERNMENT, U.S. EMBASSY DENY MEETING WITH UNGO

PA041922 Paris AFP in Spanish 1641 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Jan (AFP)--Guillermo Ungo, president of the opposition's Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), was apparently in San Salvador over the weekend and met with government officials and U.S. Embassy representatives, according to EL DIARIO DE HOY, of this capital.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman however, in a statement to AFP, said that "such information is ridiculous" and added that Ambassador Deane Hinton did not meet with the Salvadoran leftist leader.

In the information published today, the newspaper claimed that Ungo met with Hinton on Sunday and with Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana on Monday.

The two reports were emphatically denied by a presidential spokesman.

"This is just another rumor intended to confuse public opinion," the spokesman said. He pointed out that President Magana has clearly stated that there will be no dialogue with the armed opposition.

The unofficial sources quoted by EL DIARIO DE HOY indicated that Ungo's presence in El Salvador was the result of efforts to achieve negotiations between President Magana's government and the leftist forces.

There are confronting views in El Salvador as to this possible dialogue. While the Catholic Church, the Christian Democrats and other sectors favor such a dialogue, other sectors strongly oppose the idea, particularly the rightist parties and the armed forces.

On several occasions, Defense Minister Guillermo Garcia has declared that there is nothing to negotiate with the "terrorists," who have repeatedly been asked to lay down their arms and to join in the process leading to the elections scheduled for March 1984.

CSO: 3248/394

COLONEL DISMISSED AS POSTAL SERVICE DIRECTOR

PA081414 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1307 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] It has been officially announced that Col (Fernando Roberto Martinez), general director of the postal service, has been dismissed. Interior Minister Manuel Isidro Lopez Cermeno notified our news center of this dismissal. The official said that the investigation of the disappearance of money orders will continue, adding that very few people have complained about losing correspondence sent from abroad containing money orders.

Our correspondent has also talked to several employees of the General Postal Directorate. They think that the person shot to death on Thursday was a key witness in the case of the missing money orders. The murderer of the alleged key witness in the case of the missing money orders is the subject of an intense search by the authorities.

In view of the announcement that Colonel (Martinez), general postal service director, [has been dismissed], the postal workers have asked both the constituent assembly and the interior minister not to let the dismissed director leave the country until the investigation regarding the missing drafts and money orders is completed.

We don't understand why they waited until a fellow worker [companero] was killed by a former National Guard agent, who is also a trusted man of the former director, to dismiss the director, the postal workers say in a protest note issued this morning. Colonel (Martinez) has been left free even though it is a known fact that at this point there is no one to answer for the thousands of dollars stolen from that institution, the postal workers say in conclusion.

CSO: 3248/400

COPREFA 'SURPRISED' OVER OCHOA REMARKS

PA072243 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2156 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) stated this afternoon that "it views with surprise the remarks by the commander of Cabanas Department," Lt Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, who has been rebelling since last night against the defense minister.

COPREFA made a statement to newsmen at 1400 (2000 GMT), and noted that "the high command is conducting the pertinent investigations, the results of which will be investigated [as received] in due time." Local and foreign reporters have been gathering at the armed forces general staff installations since early today.

Military spokesmen said that the other Salvadoran military installations and garrisons are working normally "without any incidents, and all of them are carrying out their tasks."

However, a military source told ACAN-EFE that the commanders of San Miguel and San Vicente Departments, as well as specialized counterinsurgency battalions and possibly the air force, have joined the Cabanas commander. None of these stories was confirmed by the respective military detachments.

It was unofficially reported that all the military detachments have met to analyze the Cabanas rebellion, which demands the dismissal of Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia.

Lieutenant Colonel Ochoa Perez was notified yesterday that he had been appointed military attache at the Salvadoran Embassy in Uruguay. He rejected this appointment and rebelled last night with the support of 1,000 noncommissioned officers and troops of the Cabanas detachment.

COPREFA reported that an officer (whose name was not disclosed) was sent to Cabanas to personally investigate the situation, and "it will not be until he returns to the general staff that they will have the necessary information to make an evaluation," military spokesmen noted.

Ochoa Perez today told ACAN-EFE that the troops under his direction are maintaining their rebellious position against the Defense Ministry "and do not recognize General Garcia as the minister."

U.S. Ambassador Deane R. Hinton met with General Garcia for 2 hours this morning, but the details of this conversation were not disclosed.

Political sources are being cautiously quiet about the topic, and no statements have been obtained from the presidency of the republic.

CSO: 3248/400

OCHOA SAYS VARIOUS UNITS PROMISE NEUTRALITY

PA071918 Paris AFP in Spanish 1844 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Sensuntepeque, El Salvador, 7 Jan (AFP)--Col Sigifredo Ochoa, military commander of Cabanas Department, located north of San Salvador, maintained today that his rebellion is not a military coup attempt but a conflict with Defense Minister Gen Guillermo Garcia.

Ochoa talked with reporters in Sensuntepeque, capital of Cabanas Department, 80 km northeast of San Salvador. He was accompanied by his officers, the department governor and other local authorities.

Ochoa, who is 40 years old, appeared calm. He accused Garcia of being "corrupt" and demanded his dismissal.

The rebellious officer said that various military units in the country have promised to be "neutral."

Reports that Ochoa received support from the Atonal Counterinsurgency Battalion have not been confirmed, though it was noted that a captain from that battalion apparently expressed support for the colonel's movement.

Ochoa disclosed that he had received an order for his transfer last night. According to this order he was being sent to Uruguay as a military attache, but he rejected this and decided to rebel, with his unit, against this decision.

A small demonstration in support for Ochoa was staged in Sensuntepeque, attended by some 500 people in a calm atmosphere.

Sensuntepeque was closed by military troops, who banned the entry and exit of vehicles. However, this measure was suspended at 0930 and circulation returned to normal.

The top military command has still not voiced an opinion about Ochoa's decision, though a press conference was supposed to have been held this morning at the Defense Ministry where General Garcia was expected to state his view about the rebellion.

CSO: 3248/400

OCHOA AIDE CLAIMS ATLCATL, BELLOSO SUPPORT

PA091550 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1421 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 9 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Maj Roberto Rodriguez Sossa, deputy to Colonel Ochoa Perez, confirmed to ACAN-EFE that Col Adolfo Bustillo, chief of the air force, called the Cabanas commander this morning [8 January] by telephone to offer his support.

Similarly, Maj Rodriguez Sossa reported that the rebels had been offered support by the (?commander of the) Atlacatl Battalion and the military chiefs of the Atonal and Ramon Belloso Battalions, as well as "all the officers" of the detachment in the eastern city of San Miguel.

So far, none of the military chiefs of other units which allegedly support the rebellion have confirmed their support.

On the other hand, Maj Rodriguez Sossa said that there have been rumors among military personnel in San Salvador to the effect that the commanders of several military detachments are also calling for the dismissal of Defense Minister General Garcia.

The rebel officer insisted that he had received this information unofficially. He declined to name the commanders to which he referred.

CSO: 3248/400

COUNTRY SECTION

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

1983 BUDGET APPROVED--Yesterday the Constituent Assembly approved the nation's general budget which totals 2,058,802,990 colones. The 1983 budget is 52,266,060 colones less than the 1982 budget. [PA302230 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Dec 82 pp 2, 36 PA]

CSO: 3248/394

BISHOP EXPLAINS OPPOSITION TO RESTRUCTURING OF UWI

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 27 Nov 82 p 1, Caricom Supplement p 4

[Article by Keith Jeremiah]

[Text] PRIME Minister Maurice Bishop yesterday outlined various levels at which Grenada intends to struggle against proposals advanced for the restructuring of the University of the West Indies (UWI).

He was delivering the feature address at the closing session of the four-day conference on "Education is Production Too!", which was held in Carriacou, at its renovated hotel resort, "Camp Carriacou".

PM Bishop explained in detail how the restructuring proposals would be disadvantageous to students of the Lesser Developed Countries (LDC) in the English-speaking Caribbean, including Belize, the Bahamas and the British Virgin Islands.

He also expressed

dissatisfaction with the consensus coming out of the recent Caricom summit in Jamaica on the concerns raised by members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECES) about the restructuring.

According to him, the consensus implies that the proposals will be accepted, once the concerns of the OECES member states are resolved within six months.

"It is impossible to resolve these concerns within six months time", PM Bishop said.

He pointed out that some people will try to argue that the restructuring proposals will stand, even though these concerns are not resolved.

Grenada intends to

canvass support at two main levels against the proposals - from above and below, according to RM Bishop.

From above, support will be solicited from the different OECS governments, UWI's grant committee and academic board, the guilds of undergraduates, and the West Indies Group of University Teachers (WIGUT), among other similar bodies and levels.

From below, RM Bishop said, various groups and organisations throughout the region, such as the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), the Caribbean Conference of Labour (CCL) will be called upon to renounce the proposals.

He said the struggle will also be taken up by "Committees for the Defence of the University", that will be formed in the various islands, and the Standing Committee of Teachers from the Caribbean, formed at the end of the conference.

UWI, he disclosed, has gone through four distinct restructuring processes, but none of them has destroyed its regional character.

According to him,

the university's first phase lasted from 1948-62, during which it had been affiliated to the University of London and was referred to as the University College of the West Indies.

The second lasted from 1962-75, in which changes to adjust to new realities were implemented at the university, without harming its regional character.

The third phase - the struggle for democratisation UWI, came in 1975, with the election of Michael Manley to political power in Jamaica.

Manley got the caricom heads of governments meeting in St. Kitts in December 1975 to appoint an inter-governmental committee, headed by William Demas, to prepare a report on UWI for them.

Part two of that report which among other things called for decentralisation and preservation of UWI's regional character, was never tabled before a Caricom summit for discussion, the RM revealed. It was only discussed at a Standing Committee of Caricom education ministers meeting.

Grenada, RM Bishop said, struggled at the recent Caricom

summit for the tabling of that part of the Demas report.

The fourth phase begun in 1977 and is still continuing. RM Bishop said it started with a white paper issued by the Trinidadian government, proposing a national institute by bringing all the country's higher learning institutions together.

Coming out of subsequent meetings, was a consensus report, containing the present proposals, which was presented at a meeting in Barbados in February.

He listed eight main reasons why Grenada objects, to the restructuring proposals.

They are lost of influence and control over UWI by OECS member countries; lost of student places, increased expenses, drop in standards an unfair dicount arrangement; failure to address tertiary education problems in LDC states, and unfair equity structure, and failure to recognise certificates of students coming from tertiary institutions in the LDCs.

RM Bishop disclosed that Grenada recently replied to a letter

from the bursar of UWI, informing the country that its assessed contribution has increased from 184,000 for the 1980/81 period to 405,575 for the 1981 to 1982 period.

Pointing out that such an increase even comes before the restructuring, he said Grenada finds the basis on which this assessed contribution is being judged unacceptable and will have no part of it.

He revealed that, over the past three and a half years, the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG), has re-paid most of the \$3 million in contribution which the Eric Gairy regime owed UWI. Only \$146,000 remains to be paid.

CSO: 3298/228

UNION CONSTITUTION AMENDED; GENERAL COUNCIL ADDED

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 27 Nov 82 p 3

[Text] THE Technical and Allied Workers Union's (TAWU) constitution was amended Thursday night at its end of year general meeting, to allow for the creation of a General Council (GC).

This GC, according to Vice-President Chester Humphrey, was created to ensure more participation from TAWU's membership. It comprises TAWU's Management Committee and one delegate for each 25 members of a work centre.

The GC will meet once every four months, and shall have the power between Annual General Meetings to determine any matters on which the constitution is silent, and to fine, suspend or expel any member who tries anything considered "detrimental" to TAWU.

Humphrey said the constitution was discussed for over three

months in branch and other TAWU meetings. Members made suggestions. Working under an amended constitution after many years was a momentous achievement for TAWU, Humphrey said.

The meeting decided on a \$2.00 levy from all members each month, towards buying a \$22,000 piece of property close to TAWU's existing headquarters in Green Street, to expand the building.

TAWU's President, Jim Wardally, said

that for the last three years its membership had doubled and was now over 2,000. The GC, he said, was the highest body in the union, will ensure representation of all work places, and will keep the Management Committee grounded with the members.

Minister of Labour and National Mobilisation, Selwyn Strachan,

who also addressed the members, congratulated those working on projects such as the Eastern Main Road, Ramon Quintana plant, and the Sandino plant.

Solidarity messages were given by the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union, the Public Workers' Union, the Agricultural and General Workers' Union, Bank and General Workers' Union, and the Trade Union Council.

CSO: 3298/228

BRIEFS

STUDENT DEMONSTRATION--Students of the Wesley College School in St. George's, took to the streets Wednesday morning in a protest demonstration. The students, who were wearing coloured shirts to school for the previous nine days, were protesting what they called "bad environmental surroundings." They explained that the school was too close to the road, so noise from passing traffic was distracting, and that the school was too small for the around 250 children it housed. The Ministry of Education has offered them use of either the St. George's Government school or the Wesley Hall school in Queen's Park, since these were underpopulated and the students could fit in one school. Their Board of Directors did not accept this offer, they said, and the Ministry then offered them a piece of land on which to build the school, but this offer was also refused. The students Wednesday marched to the Ministry of Education's yard, where they held a meeting, but there were told there was no senior Ministry official there. They are now awaiting word from the Ministry, they said, since they felt the Board had no interest in them. In the National Students' Council's Executive meeting today, the students hope to raise the matter, and get support from other schools. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 27 Nov 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/228

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORIAL TRANSFERS--The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that Julio Merida Castellanos, ambassador to Egypt, and Mario Juarez Toledo, ambassador to Venezuela, have been reassigned to Peru and Argentina respectively. [PA300003 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Dec 82 p 20 PA]

AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN--Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola and I-cheng Lon, ambassador from Taiwan, have signed an agreement on agricultural technical cooperation. The agreement is an additional protocol to the technical-agricultural cooperation agreement signed on 1 February 1977. [Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 Dec 82 p 2 PA]

NEW BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION--A 16-page biweekly called GUATENOTICIAS will begin circulation in Guatemala today. It will contain political, economic, sports and cultural news, as well as reportage of local news events and will be sold by subscription only. [PA262312 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Dec 82 p 6 PA]

CSO: 3248/393

BURNHAM COMMENTS ON CARICOM SUMMIT SUPPORT FOR GUYANA

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

GEORGETOWN — (GNA) — President Forbes Burnham has expressed satisfaction with a statement of support for Guyana's territorial integrity made by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders in the communique issued at the end of their summit last week, according to an IPS report yesterday from Ocho Rios.

"So far as Guyana is concerned, we got the firm support of our colleagues on the question of our territorial integrity," IPS quoted President Burnham as saying in an interview following the close of the three-day parley.

Venezuela is claiming some 70 per cent of Guyanese territory on grounds that the 1899 Arbitration Award which established the existing borders was null and void.

The Guyana-Venezuela territorial issue and the claim made against the entire territory of Belize by neighbouring Guatemala were

discussed by the Heads of Government during the conference, and declarations of support issued.

President Burnham said afterwards he would not describe the declaration on the Guyana-Venezuela

territorial issue to be a warning to Venezuela.

"I would say it is a statement to Venezuela and the rest of the world that Guyana is fully supported by her CARICOM colleagues," he said.

The declaration was also an indication that if Venezuela is interested in peaceful, mutually advantageous relations with CARICOM members, its behaviour in question like the use of threats, the use of force, economic aggression must stop, IPS quoted Cde Burnham as saying.

The IPS report continued: "President Burnham said Guyana was always interested in discussions to try and settle the problems. He explained that Guyana had proposed that the matter be taken to the

International Court of Justice at The Hague, but that Venezuela had rejected this offer.

"Now a whole process has to be gone through and if eventually we cannot identify the means of settlement the matter will stand referred to the Secretary General of the United Nations", IPS quoted the Guyanese leader as saying.

The final communique called upon Venezuela to

desist from further action or threats of action likely to affect the economic development of Guyana and urged both sides to arrive at a final decision as promptly as possible.

On the question of Belize, the CARICOM leaders agreed that efforts should be intensified bilaterally and multilaterally to guarantee the security of Belize.

No Disagreement

THERE was no disagreement among Caricom Heads of Government on the wording of the section of the communique concerning claims to the territories of Guyana and Belize, a spokesman from the Presidential Secretariat said yesterday.

The spokesman was referring to an Inter Press Service (IPS) report carried in the

Chronicle of Friday, November 19 which said that the Caricom leaders could not reach agreement on the wording of the section of the declaration which relates to territorial controversies affecting Guyana and Belize.

According to the spokesman of the Presidential Secretariat the IPS report was inaccurate.

COMMENT ON MEDIA AT OCHO RIOS; ATTACKS ON GUYANA NOTED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Nov 82 p 5

[Article by Allan Fenty]

[Excerpts] The recently concluded CARICOM summit held in Ocho Rios, northern Jamaica, provided a showcase for the talents, skills and abilities of the region's media workers and of those from further afield.

As summit meetings go, I expect that, for the seasoned North American journalist and technician, the third Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community was "slow" and too "closed door" -- as some of them were heard to remark.

But for the observer of the media at work, and I daresay for many media practitioners themselves, the third Caribbean Summit was an object lesson that taught and revealed the power, prejudices and pre-occupations of the media -- as it represented and projected its own various interests.

At the outset, one sensed that the North American media representatives felt that the nature and proceedings of the meeting were to be much too "hush-hush" for

them. But there was no denying the fact that the media had been highly regarded and were to play -- or expected to play a meaningful role in the affairs of this long-overdue parley.

I was a wee bit surprised at the large and significant North American representation among the Press Corps.

Which brings me to the issues the Caribbean Press chose to project -- especially the Jamaican Press. The Draft (and most probable) Agenda was well-known but you couldn't miss the slant taken by the leading Caribbean media. As CARICOM Secretary-General Kurleigh King and Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams observed, the media highlighted the much-touted issues of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and Human Rights. The former subject did mean

a lot to the region's leaders, whilst the two who stood to benefit least or not at all from C.B.I. -- Burnham and Bishop -- had indictments hurled at them when the latter (Human Rights) was discussed -- especially in the print media. It is to the eternal credit of the

Caribbean Heads of Government; their wisdom, statesmanship and maturity, that the volatile sections of the Caribbean media could not misinform their sage deliberations and eventual recommendations on those issues.

As a now familiar article by former Guyana Information Minister Frank Campbell adorned the OPINIONS page (eight) of the pro-government (Jamaican) Daily Gleaner, under the caption "Errors in Guyana's State-owned Media," the first of two "Open Letters" to the gathered Heads of Government appeared on the entire back page of the same issue of Monday November 18.

Five publishers chose this medium to prosecute Guyana and Grenada for their alleged assault on their respective people's "human rights." To my mind -- and it was subsequently agreed that -- this ploy back-fired, as most right-thinking people felt that this was an inappropriate and even divisive manner to air real or imagined grievances.

And it was a similar brand of "political journalism" that had

Secretary-General
Kurleigh King
apologising to President
Burnham and Prime
Minister Bishop -- in
writing. After Kurleigh
King had personally
explained to the media
the nature of the
"principle of unanimity"
which must govern all
Caricom Heads-of-
Government decisions,
the over-enthusiastic (or
was it "purposeful")
editor or sub-editor of the
Jamaican evening daily,
THE STAR, distorted
King's explanation under
a story captioned "Only
Unanimous Voting Can
Get Out Grenada and
Guyana." This led King
to write apologetically to
Burnham and Bishop and
to remark publicly at the
Opening Ceremony on
instances of
"irresponsible and
sensational journalism"
which threatened to fan
some fears of con-
frontation and conflict
and the potential clash of
wills.

CSO: 3298/229

CRACKDOWN ON GOLD SMUGGLING, BLACK MARKETING DEFENDED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

VICE-PRESIDENT Hamilton Green has defended Government's stand on blackmarketing and gold smuggling, saying they create intractable problems to national economy recovery.

"Blackmarketing is wrong and illegal. Gold smuggling, while it may

benefit a few, makes recovery of our economy much more difficult because it robs the country of vital foreign exchange", he said of the two issues in a discourse with members of the ruling PNC over the weekend.

Many Guyanese, he said, felt government was dealing too harshly particularly with black-marketeers.

Blackmarketing and gold smuggling frustrated efforts aimed at transforming the economy from its present state, Vice-President Green said.

"In a situation like this, other people determine national priorities, not your Government."

Government had a duty and responsibility, he stressed, to stamp out illegal and harmful

practices permeating the society.

At the same time, Government was also placing greater emphasis on national development, re-ordering priorities to ensure Guyanese achieve national self-sufficiency in essential, nutritious food, Cde Green said.

He cited the rekindling of the country's coconut industry and the development of other vegetable oil projects, intensification of food crop development and marketing programmes and the promotion of "land to the tiller" schemes in both urban and rural communities.

"Solutions cannot come overnight and we don't expect them to. But the future for us Guyanese is a bright one, and I am confident that Guyana is the country that will show the Caribbean and the rest of the Third World what real development is — before the end of this century," the Vice President concluded.

GOV'T DELEGATIONS MEETINGS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS REPORTED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

VICE-PRESIDENT, Cammie Ramsaroop and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dennis Gouveia left Moscow on Tuesday evening where they had attended the funeral of President of the U.S.S.R., Leonid Brezhnev.

The Vice-President was met on his arrival in Moscow two Sundays ago by Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Cde. Zarcheno, Vice-Chairman of the Soviet Union of the Supreme Soviet and the Head of the Latin American Department of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The former, in spite of

the many national and party delegations that were arriving, spent about 12 minutes with our party.

From the airport, the delegations drove straight to the Hall of the Columns of Trade Unions where President Brezhnev's body was lying in state.

After the funeral, Vice-President Ramsaroop was welcomed by the new General Secretary of the Party, Yuri Andropov.

In the evening, Cde. Ramsaroop had very useful meetings with Guyanese students at the Ambassador's residence where Diwali was being celebrated. On Tuesday, he and Cde. Gouveia

embassy staff and had a buffet luncheon with head and officials of the Latin American Department and Caribbean Missions.

Immediately before his departure, the Vice-President had a short private meeting with Cdes. Peter Strautmanis, Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and Zaichenko N. Mihailovich, Vice-Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet who saw him off with Cde. V. Kazimirov, Head of Latin American Department, Chief of the Caribbean Division and other officials.

CSO: 3298/229

PPP COUNCILOR RESIGNS; PNC ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE CAUSE

Announcement at Regional Meeting

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 82 p 8

[Text]

A Minority PPP Councillor, Rahamat Ally who has recently returned from a trip to Moscow, has resigned from the People's Progressive Party (PPP) and as its representative to the Regional Democratic Council of Region Five — West Berbice-Mahaica.

Cde. Ally was described as a stalwart of the PPP and was a member of the party for over fourteen years.

His dramatic resignation from the PPP was announced at the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) statutory meeting last Tuesday — two months after he and ten other PPP activists returned from Moscow.

Cde. Ally in a short statement told members of the RDC: "I will no longer be with you for I have resigned as a

member of the PPP and I wish to thank you for your co-operation over the year."

The trouble is reported to have started after Ally accepted some aids — as distress funds from members of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) following his mishap in an Aeroflot plane accident on September 29 last at "Luxemburg" airport where he narrowly escaped death and lost all his belongings and personal effects.

In the accident, Ally and ten other PPP activists were on a homeward bound flight from Moscow when the plane on landing at Luxemburg skidded off the runway, crashed into a grove and burst into flames, killing six persons.

—(GNA)

PPP Statement

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 82 p 9

[Text]

THE resignation of Rahamat Ally from the minority People's Progressive Party (PPP) was an impulsive move resulting from Mr. Ally's inability to accept

criticism for his breach of the Party's Code of Conduct, the PPP said in a statement yesterday.

Mr. Ally's resignation from the PPP, as well as from the Mahaica-Berbice Regional

Democratic Council (RDC), on which he sat as a PPP Councillor, has sparked off a controversy over a loan he reportedly tried to obtain from the RDC.

The PPP said in its statement Cde. Ally came under sharp attack from fellow councillors for asking the RDC for a credit of \$1 000 instead of directing his application to the PPP.

"It should be noted that although the RDC ruled that it could not give Ally the loan, he was offered private contributions from PNC members.

"It was these requests that sparked off criticisms from his fellow councillors", the statement added.

The PPP said Cde. Ally's resignation was in clear contradiction to a postcard the former RDC member sent to the Party's General Secretary, dated September 11, 1982, in which he pledged loyal support to the PPP until death.

CSO: 3298/229

SURINAME NATIONAL DAY MARKED IN LEADER MESSAGES

Acting President's Message

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

—ACTING President Cde. Ptolemy Reid has assured the Government and People of Suriname that in its relations with Suriname, Guyana will continue to pursue a policy of harmonious, neighbourly relations based on mutual respect.

This assurance was given in a message to Suriname's acting President, His Excellency Latchmipersaud Ramdat-Misier, on the occasion of Suriname's National Day which was celebrated yesterday.

In his message, Cde. Ptolemy Reid noted the positive steps which Suriname has taken to promote her social and economic development for the benefit of the Surinamese people and he expressed the hope that there would be an intensification of the programmes of co-operation between the two countries.

The message reads:

"On behalf of the Government and People of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending to you, the Government and

People of the Republic of Suriname, warm and cordial greetings on the occasion of your National Day.

"We have noted the positive steps which Suriname has taken to promote her economic and social development for the benefit of the people of Suriname.

"In recognition of the close ties of geography, history and culture which link our peoples and countries and of our shared aspirations as Caribbean, Amazonian and Latin American states and members of the Non-Aligned Movement, Guyana will maintain its pursuit of the policy of harmonious, neighbourly relations based on mutual respect.

"It is my hope that the coming years will see the steady intensification of programmes of co-operation between Guyana and Suriname to our mutual advantage.

"Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and personal welfare and for the continued progress and prosperity of your country." —(GNA)

Jackson's Congratulations

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] GUYANA'S Foreign Minister, Rashleigh Jackson has said that Guyana is looking forward to continued co-operation with Suriname in the areas of bilateral and multilateral concern.

In a message to the Foreign Minister of Suriname, His Excellency Dr. Harvey Naarendorp, on the occasion of that country's National Day, yesterday, Cde. Jackson said:

"On the auspicious occasion of your country's National Day, I send warm fraternal greetings and best wishes for the prosperity of the Republic of Suriname and its people.

"I look forward to our continued co-operation in the future in areas of bilateral and multilateral concern to our two countries.

"Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal well-being and happiness". —(GNA)

CSO: 3298/230

TRADE UNION CONGRESS MEETS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS BOYCOTT

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 82 p 9

[Text] THE general secretary of the Guyana Trades Union Congress yesterday called on trade unionists to clearly identify their priorities and work towards their objectives.

Cde Joseph Pollydore was at the time addressing the opening session of the two-day special conference of trade unionists representing 21 of the 23 affiliates of the TUC.

The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union informed the conference that it was not attending because it did not feel that any useful purpose would be served by the conference.

Cde Pollydore drew the attention of the conference to what he said was a failure by the Minister of Energy and Mines, Cde Hubert Jack, to reply to a letter sent by the TUC on increases in electricity charges.

The general secretary said that it was the view of many people that the time had come for an examination of the country's energy programme and pointed to the Government's hydro project and the present electricity situation.

He said that it is hoped that there will be no more retrenchment in the public sector.

Some delegates attending the conference felt that the movement should demonstrate its dissatisfaction over government's handling of some issues.

The general secretary of GAWU, Cde Boysie Ramkarran, in a letter to the TUC, said that the organisation has not struggled to implement decisions which had been taken in the interest of the workers.

His union holds the view that unity in the trade union movement is of paramount importance to the welfare of its members and the working people generally.

It regrets its inability to participate in an activity in which the largest number of industrial workers of the unionised membership are not on the Executive Council of the TUC.

CSO: 3298/230

EXPLANATION GIVEN OF SUPREME CONGRESS OF PEOPLE

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 82 p 8

[Text] ENSHRINED in the People's New Constitution of Guyana are five organs of democratic power, one of which is known as the Supreme Congress of the People. This Congress comprises all the members of the National Assembly including two members of the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (NCLDO) who are members of the National Assembly, as well as all other members of the NCLDO, bringing the total membership to ninety-three (93). The President of Guyana is not a member of the Supreme Congress, but he may at any time attend and address the body. He may also send messages to the Congress.

The date, time and place for the holding of sessions of the Congress must be fixed by the President and he may by proclamation, summon, adjourn or dissolve the Congress.

The Supreme Congress may discuss any matters of public interest and make recommendations to the National Assembly, or the Government or may advise the President

on matters which he may have referred to it.

The Congress is also empowered to make its own rules of procedure and until these rules have been made, the Standing Orders of the National Assembly are to be used, with modifications, adaptations, qualifications and exceptions where necessary.

Functions of Clerk, Deputy Clerk and other Officers of the Supreme Congress are executed by the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Officers of the National Assembly, respectively.

The Chairman of the Congress may adjourn the sitting if he is satisfied that there are less than one-third of all the members present at the sitting. All matters proposed for decision at the Congress must be determined by a majority of the votes of the Members present and Moving.

ROLE OF POLITICS, POLITICAL PARTIES IN SOCIETY ASSESSED

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 82 pp 6, 14

[Article by Ken Danns]

[Text] THE politics of a society is an ever-changing phenomenon. Over the last three decades, politics, political parties and politicians have been on the centre stage of the nation's agenda.

Within recent times, however, there is an observable decline in the pre-eminence of things political and the shifting of emphasis to things economic in the face of the strangling crises of our times.

There are three dimensions to this decline in politics. These are: the decline of political parties; the decline of politicians; the decline of political activities.

The early 1950's witnessed the formation of several political parties and the apprenticeship of nationalist politicians under a Westminster system of government. Local politicians were compelled to endorse Westminster democracy and from political parties as a prerequisite to the organised participation in Government.

Parties were formed primarily as electoral machines aimed at getting their candidates elected into the legislature and enable

their participation in government. During the 1950's seven new political parties were formed, in the 1960's five new parties and in the 1970's four new parties.

Out of the 17 parties formed from 1950, seven currently survive.

P.N.C., P.P.P. U.F., W.P.A., L.P., P.D.M., W.P.V.P. The attrition rate of political parties is a reflection of their weak organisational structure and lack of serious commitment of their leaders as politicians. Of the seven surviving parties two have never contested an election (W.P.A. and W.P.V.P.) and one party (P.D.M.) never experienced electoral success.

There is a relationship between electoral success and the capacity of a party to survive. Parties which have gone out of existence have either merged with other parties or else withered away after electoral defeat. The PPP and the PNC are the two longest surviving parties and owe their longevity to their respective electoral successes. close association with sections of the labour movement and superior

organisational structures.

The right-wing United Force has survived a change in leadership and a merger with the Liberator Party. The UF is the third largest party as measured by past electoral success. The WPA knowingly active is an anomaly in this spectrum. Having eschewed electoral participation, this party can be said to be more involved in the politics of protest and resistance than conventional opposition politics.

There has definitely been a decline in enthusiasm among political parties in the country as interest-aggregating and interest-articulating mechanisms. The PPP though still a solid political organisation has been paying more attention to printing the newspaper the "Mirror" and other party publications and organizing public lectures than in more conventional forms of political activity.

The PNC has expanded its central and grassroots organisation considerably and is the most effective and vibrant political organisation in

the country. Nevertheless the orientation to and involvement of the party machinery with state activities has decreased its capacity for conventional forms of party organising and activities.

If for any reason the PNC party becomes disassociated from the state apparatus both its organisational structure and party machinery could become considerably weakened.

The WPA with its phenomenon of multiple leadership and dissent orientation functions more as a protest group than a political party.

The UF is a miracle party which managed in recent times to secure small electoral success without seriously trying. The other political parties are little more than paper organisations having

made no tangible public impact and leaving always a doubt in the minds of political analysts as to whether they still exist.

The decline in political parties can be attributed to: the predominance of the PNC party and its sustained control of the state apparatus; the fact that Westminster party

politics has been transplanted to a social environment not accustomed nor oriented to the democratic competition for power; the lack of perseverance and seriousness of purpose among leaders of some parties; the seeming redefinition of the rules for participation in politics in Guyana.

The decline in the numbers of politicians is in part a concomitant of the decline in political parties. The 1950's and 1960's were the decades of nationalist politicians. Most politicians of this

era have either retired from active politics or else retired from living.

Politicians like B.O. Hart from the People's National Party and Dan Debidin from the United Workers and Farmer's party have died.

Others like Lionel Luckhoo (National Labour Front) and Balram Singh Rai (Justice Party) have been concentrating on their law practice with the former taking on the public role of moral entrepreneur.

The PPP has suffered the withdrawal and the demise of many leading lights including Fenton Ramsahoye, Cedric Nunes, Vincent Teekah, Joycelyn Hubbard and C. R. Jacobs only to mention a few.

The PNC has also lost from active politics in one way or another many of its leading political figures — Winifred Gaskin,

Shirley Field-Ridley and John Joaquin have died. Other genuine politicians like John Carter, Claude Merriman, Neville Bissember, Robert Jordan, W.O.R. Kendall, Winslow Carrington who formed the old guard of the PNC have all moved off the stage as politicians. The age of politicians has seemingly passed for the time being in Guyana.

With the introduction of technocrats in the ministerial system, many ministers of the government have been recruited from outside the PNC party itself more for their specialised expertise than any competence in politics or skill as politicians. Ministers recruited from within the party itself with few exceptions are in a sense "apprentice politicians" having passed through the ranks of the party and having little or no possibility for

political survival outside the PNC party.

With an apparent emphasis on specialised competence in ministerial selection, the PNC party has been fielding fewer and fewer persons from its ranks into the ministerial system. Ministers who are recruited because of

their technocratic skills are in a sense "sponsored politicians".

These in general are not altogether comfortable with mass appearances and the mobilising activity required of politicians and generally fade into obscurity when removed from office. Though they received the call, neither the "sponsored politicians" nor the "apprentice politicians" are leaders of men in their own right. The true leaders of men are very few not only in the ruling PNC party itself but in the society as a whole.

Other political functionaries in the PNC party perform more as party bureaucrats than as politicians. A few others pursue the futile task of flirting with ideology in a society which sociologist Daniel Bell would describe as witnessing "the end of ideology".

The withdrawal of founding leader Peter D'Aguiar and other leading figures like Ann Jardim, Randolph Cheeks, Mohamed Kasim, Rupert Tello, Hilbert Spence, Eleanor DaSilva have created a political vacuum in the United Force. These politicians of yester year have withdrawn from active political life. Brindley Benn of the WPVP who left the PPP and Llewlyn John of the PDM who left the PNC have not been displaying any political dynamism. It is difficult to cast some of the leadership of the WPA into the roles of

politicians and the concept "political militants" might be more appropriate. Eusi Kwayana and Moses Bhagwan are notable exceptions.

The decline in the numbers of politicians and in the vibrance of many of those remaining can be attributed to: The decline in political parties, the withdrawal of politicians for one reason or another from public life and the inertia or inability of the political system to throw up replacements; the change in the electoral systems from First Past the Post or a Simple Majority to Proportional Representation where the electorate is asked to vote for a party rather than a candidate; the changed rules for gaining public

recognition in political office.

Whereas the decline in political parties and politicians are contingent on the actions of politicians, the decline in political activity is, largely a function of mass response. The economic crisis has affected all and making ends meet and surviving is the dominant concern of people. The luxury of politics and conventional political participation is not seen as an essential item in the life activities of the masses.

For example there has been a noticeable decline in attendance at political meetings and functions regardless of the sponsors. (unless these are well organised and transportation and other inducements are provided). This is in marked contrast to the 1950's and 1960's when people spontaneously attended political meetings. Guyanese do not currently see politics whether of a pro-government or anti-government nature as

seriously providing answers to their perils.

The fire and passions of mass political involvement of the 1950's and 1960's have waned. Political organisations in Guyana are experiencing what Joseph LaPalambara has called a "penetration crisis" in that they are not successful in getting what they want from people over whom they seek to exercise power.

There are no shortages of political activists nor political activism but an inadequacy of public response and participation. Political activity is embraced by some only insofar as it yields positive material rewards or facilitates the avoidance of deprivation or punishment.

For most people, however, political activity has proved both unrewarding and non-utilitarian and has consequently declined in perceived significance.

University of Guyana Political Scientist Thomas Gittens in a sophisticated piece (Political Parties, Electoral Politics and Democracy in Post Colonial Societies: The Demobilization of Mass Mobilization) has explained the decline in political activity in terms of the concept depoliticization.

Employing a neo-Marxian approach, Gittens contends that prior to independence and nationalisation there was an alliance between the petite bourgeois elements in the society and the masses with the former mobilising the latter to oppose the colonial order.

With the granting of political independence and nationalization the petite bourgeois ascended into positions of

dominance and control in the society. As a new ruling class the petite bourgeois has set about depoliticizing the masses by directing them away from the politics of agitation and from any effort at mobilising them not in accord with ruling class expectations.

Nowhere is the decline in political activity more noticeable than in Parliament the highest Forum of politicians. Political debates in this body have become largely sterile and uninspiring. Parliament, though a much expanded body compared to previous legislatures goes about its functions in a mechanical fashion, rubber stamping Government submissions. As part of the Westminster heritage Parliament is currently undergoing a crisis of meaning and a crisis of being.

Man, as Aristotle postulated, is a political animal, yet I contend that there has been a decline in politics along three conventional dimensions in Guyana. My aim is not to bury politics nor like a soothsayer prophesy its death. Politics is very much an integral part of our day-to-day existence whether we like it or not and whether or not we recognise it. My point is that politics, political organisations and politicians have paled in significance and importance in recent times in the Guyanese society.

Pressure groups, religious and cultural organizations have risen to prominence at the expense of parties and other political organizations. The fierce competitiveness of party politics has given way to the backdoor lobbying of various interest groups in the society.

Administrative politics, that is, bureaucratic rivalry between government ministries and corporations and other arms of the state is also rising to prominence at the expense of political party competition.

Conventional politics then has reduced in significance but is re-emerging in hardly recognisable yet potent forms. Pressure group politics and administrative politics are producing new alignments of interests aggregation and interest articulation. The activities of political militants represent another element in this vein.

The declining significance of politics does not necessarily mean a decline in political behaviour but rather a typification of a passing era in the political development of the society. This passing era is the era of West-

minster style politics. A new era of politics and political behaviour is dawning out of the crucible of social change.

CSO: 3298/230

MANUFACTURERS PLEDGE TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] The Guyana Manufacturers Association (GMA) has pledged to continue to seek out new areas of investment and looks forward to positive support from Government in this respect.

The G. M. A. also pledged to co-operate with the Guyana Government.

In a Press release, the association welcomed the measures recently announced by Vice-President for Economic Planning and Finance, Desmond Hoyte.

The Vice-President, at a joint meeting of the Industrial Development Council and the Export Promotion Council, announced across-the-board removal of consumption tax on imported raw materials for goods manufactured for export.

Cde. Hoyte also told representatives of the manufacturing sector that a new system for the speeding up of customs clearance and delivery of imported items used in the manufacturing process, has been implemented.

The release explained that these two areas have been burning issues particularly for manufacturers, and provided cause for consistent representations by the G. M. A.

These two measures, if properly administered, the release noted, could assist in improving the competitiveness of this country's exports.

According to the release, the G. M. A. also welcomes the establishment of the Industrial Development Council and the Export Promotion Unit, and said it would participate in the activities and programmes of these two organisations.

The declared intention of the association is to support measures that will promote the expansion of the manufacturing sector and the development of the economy, the release said.

It added that the private sector has a valuable role to play in the development process in Guyana and the G. M. A. would continue to strive for the promotion of measures that would attain the development objective.

The release asserted that much of Government's efforts are thwarted by the insensitivity of some persons who administer or operate systems in the public sector.

The G. M. A. hopes there would be a higher level in efficiency in the public sector. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/230

BURNHAM SPEAKS ON REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] President Forbes Burnham declared open a \$32 million development project last night and warned Guyanese that sacrifices have to be made by all if the country is to develop.

Speaking to a gathering of hundreds including local and foreign entrepreneurs, the President recognised two conditions for development. He said these were the sincerity of the Government to give encouragement to those who want to develop the country and the cooperation from every section of the economy.

Such co-operation, he stressed, must be based upon an appreciation that sacrifices for development means sacrifice today for achievement tomorrow.

"We cannot scatter away our resources on conspicuous consumption, on commodities not necessary for survival and expect to develop," he emphasized.

He added: "We have got to make sacrifices to develop. And these sacrifices have to be made by all. Not only by the ordinary man but also by those who smuggle out the money they make in the country."

Cde Burnham was at the time addressing invitees to the opening of the Seals and Packaging Industries Limited corrugated board and cartons plant at Farm, about five miles from Georgetown on the East Bank, Demerara.

Cde Burnham thanked the overseas financiers including the United States Export-Import Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank for their participation in the project and he praised the Guyanese workers who built the factory and assembled the plant.

"I should hope that as we gaze upon this edifice we will remember that all of us have to make a contribution to true and real development," he said.

The project was spoken about in speeches as a growth point for development since it is expected to satisfy the needs for packaging in every area of the economy, particularly agriculture.

Cde. Yesu Persaud, leader of the Guyana Liquor Corporation team which executed the project, spoke of backward integration to provide the raw materials, which is craft paper, when huge electricity supplies become available.

Cde. Burnham urged, however, that his suggestion to use recycled paper and cardboard be taken up by the corporation.

The President called on Vice-President Hamilton Green, who is responsible for agriculture, to do two things--that the trees of five and seven years' maturation necessary to feed the plant are cultivated and that those who produce cassava and harvest fish provide enough starch and glue for SAPIL and other projects so that hard earned foreign exchange would not have to be utilized to purchase adhesives from abroad.

Cde. Burnham said investments of the size of the SAPIL project are to be directed to give a fillip to the economy, contributing to more efficient and effective production and providing jobs for Guyanese in circumstances where they enjoy life as civilised people.

Welcoming private investment from abroad in the project, President Burnham reiterated that Government had no objection to overseas private investment provided the terms are clearly identified and agreed upon.

He joined with the foreign contractors to praise Guyanese labour but pointed out: "If we are to aim at being developed, we must aim at not only assembling the factories but to make the factory which makes the factories."

The SAPIL plant is situated on a piece of abandoned cane field and was first conceived as a bottling plant but after the plans were changed and many hurdles overcome, completion work on the project began in April 1981.

Shareholding in the company spans the Government, private sector, co-operatives and trade unions, Cde. Persaud said.

The plant is the 10th GLC project, and other developments there include offices, laboratory, canteen and a sports complex. New jobs are being provided for only 40 persons but the factory would affect development in all manufacturing and productive enterprises.

The land around the compound, with the permission of the company, will be cultivated by the workers thus giving them extra opportunity to contribute to the recovery of the economy, President Burnham noted.

CSO: 3298/230

FARMERS, GOV'T TO COOPERATE ON IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 82 p 3

[Text] Massive drainage and irrigation works costing approximately \$80000 will shortly be undertaken in the Craig-Caledonia Village District, on the East Bank, Demerara.

The works, which are to be a joint effort between government and the 500 farmers in the area, when completed will bring 1 000 acres of arable lands under cultivation.

It will also provide better drainage and irrigation facilities for lands under cultivation, but which at times go under water when the rainy season begins.

The works project is the result of meetings between the farmers and Vice-President Hamilton Green, who is responsible for Agriculture.

At one of these meetings held at the Craig Primary School, December 2, Vice-President Green said to the farmers: "We have entered into a new era where at meetings such as this we are taking a fresh approach with a view to giving farmers additional responsibilities."

He suggested that they form themselves into a "farmers' group" and approach Gaibank for a loan to carry out the works, Cde. Green, however, assured them that some of the costs would be borne by government.

The Vice-President then called upon the farmers to double their efforts and so prove to government that "we can be self-reliant in food."

After pointing out that agriculture had been identified as the main area of activity to pull the country out of the present economic situation, Cde. Green said: "The farmers must have as a commitment to take this country out of its dependence on an imported grain. It must be like a creed--a religion to them. We must be dependent on the things we produce and can control."

He then declared: "If we can feed ourselves totally and have enough food to export then we will be better off."

The farmers have agreed to form themselves into a group so as to tackle the problems that lie ahead.

CSO: 3298/231

CANADA ASSISTS WITH AIRPORT NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 82 p 4

[Text]

The High Commissioner for Canada, Mr. Julian Payne, yesterday handed over air navigational equipment and aircraft landing aids valued at G\$ 1.7m. to the Government of Guyana.

The equipment, successfully commissioned and meeting ICAO standards, is located at Timehri International Airport and includes: ILS - Instrument Landing System; VASIS - Visual Approach Slope Indicators; DME - Distance Measuring Equipment; Extended Range Equipment; and VHF/DF - Very high Frequency Direction Finder.

The equipment will provide a significant improvement in the airport capacity to handle air traffic and be of benefit to all air travellers to and from Guyana's international airport.

With completion of Commissioning and Handover Ceremonies this morning, the Government of Guyana assumes full responsibility for operations and maintenance and the recurrent costs thereof for the systems.

In a continuing effort to ensure success of this project, CIDA has recently approved a technical assistance project for further training in maintenance for up to eighteen more months.

Since 1965 Canada has provided some G\$ 18 million for development of aviation under the control of the Department of Civil Aviation. This assistance has included over a dozen non-directional beacons designed and strategically located to guide aircraft in Guyana's airspace; training for air-traffic controllers and their trainers; transferring of equipment from the old to the new control tower; and air traffic control consoles in the tower.

As part of an overall priority to actively support economic development in the Caribbean Region, CIDA and the Government of Guyana are also considering other forms of co-operation for development in Guyana's aviation sector.

CORPORATION OFFICIALS FREE TO JOIN UNION OF THEIR CHOICE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 82 p 4

[Text]

THE Chief Labour Officer Cde. Oscar Moore said that officials of corporations were free to become members of the trade union of their choice.

Cde. Moore made the statement in reply to a letter sent by the General Secretary of the Guyana Trades Union Congress Cde. Joseph Pollydore.

Unions had previously complained to the TUC about the failure to get trade unions to represent certain categories of workers who some managements and agencies felt were outside of trade union representation.

Cde. Moore in a letter to the General Secretary of the TUC had this to say: "I would like to advise that in so far as public corporations which fall under the control of the Guyana State Corporation are concerned the declared position of Guystac is that the present excluded categories of workers are free to become members of trade unions, there is however, the preference that those workers should, where by exist, comprise separate bargaining units from

those which cover the rank and file workers.

Cde. Moore said that with respect to the possibility that in some agencies, the workers in the excluding categories might prove too small in number to justify the creation of a separate bargaining unit, Cde. Aubrey Roberts, Personnel and Industrial Relations Manager of the Guyana State Corporation said that Guystac would be quite willing to hold discussions on the issue with the union involved.

In the meantime representations are still being pursued with those State Corporations which are outside of Guystac.

TRADE UNION EDUCATION PLANNED FOR BAUXITE WORKERS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 82 p 8

[Text] Several bauxite workers, members of the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU), are to be exposed to an intensive trade union education programme.

The project will set out to develop leadership qualities among the union's 'grass roots' membership and to promote greater understanding of the principles of trade unionism.

The education project is being undertaken by the Linden-based GMWU executive body with assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through that country's Council for International Trade Union Education.

An Education Officer from the Minters International Federation (MIF) is at present in Guyana assisting with preparations for the project which is to be implemented by February next year.

Stig Blomqvist of Sweden, the MIF Education Officer, explained yesterday that the initiative for the project was taken when he was on his first visit to Guyana last February. The extent of the programme, he said, will depend on the amount of funds eventually made available by SIDA.

"We hope to implement the programme through the study group method. This will not only save funds but will facilitate an interchange of ideas on trade unionism among members", Blomqvist explained.

GMWU President Stephen Lewis, commenting on the project, said his union executive plans to hold talks with Mr Blomqvist to determine the education needs of the union within the three bauxite communities, Linden, Everton and Kwakwani. (GNA).

CSO: 3298/231

BURNHAM ADDRESSES ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL SERVICES

Second Conference

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Dec 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] The second conference of Heads of Organisation of National Services (ONS) which links Guyana in a para-military union with Zambia and Tanzania opened in Georgetown yesterday with President Forbes Burnham calling on the delegates to hasten the development of their countries through cooperation.

Delivering the opening speech at the GNS Sports Complex, President Burnham declared that if the week-long meeting achieved nothing else but exchange of ideas and transfer of technology it would have achieved a "tremendous amount."

The President, who expressed the view that there is a lot to be learnt and a lot to be taught by the three services, hoped that out of the deliberations would come firm decisions to take positive action.

President Burnham pointed to the seriousness and commitment with which the three Governments approached National Services. Also he saw the meeting as a further step in the South-South dialogue.

According to the President, meetings of National Services Heads could be much more important than meetings of Finance and Development Ministers.

President Burnham stressed that the South-South dialogue should not be restricted to meetings between politicians but should permeate entire nations or groups of nations, agencies and institutions like National Services.

The President explained that in Guyana, GNS brought people of varying cultures, ethnic backgrounds and experiences together to work with one another and to understand that the economy is dependent upon people and that in the absence of a work ethic from youth, development would not take place.

"We must learn to take what we have and make with what we have, what we want" the President declared."

He defended the militarisation of the GNS which he said is part of the country's defence complex because of a greedy neighbour.

President Burnham noted that while the approaches and objectives of the three countries were similar the emphasis might be different. He observed however that concomitant with the emphasis on development was the ability to defend "what you are going to develop."

He commended to the conference the role of national services "to save our people from famine, save them from being dependent on others for basic necessities of life and contribute to the forward march of civilisation."

Earlier, Conference Chairman Brigadier General Tom Fara of Zambia had noted that the ONS has started on a small scale but could develop like the OAU or the Non-Aligned Movement.

Already about six other countries had expressed interest to join ONS and there was hope that ONS would grow from its humble beginnings. Brigadier General Fara said the theme "Development through Co-operation" was most appropriate since there was always something to be learnt from each other.

Major General Mkisi of Tanzania said President Burnham's speech gave the encouragement that ONS would get the support of all the leaders.

"We will take your speech as the guiding light in our deliberations," General Mkisi said while embracing the view that cooperation was the only solution to the crisis facing developing countries.

Noting President Burnham's pride in the fact that the first uniform he ever wore was a GNS one, Lt. Col. Mwambazi of Zambia said they were appreciative of the personal attention Cde Burnham gives to the running of GNS.

Col. Mwambazi said the ZNS was operating on a similar basis to GNS with emphasis on agriculture and defence and looked forward to sharing experiences in self-reliance and mutual co-operation.

The ONS was conceived in Lusaka, Zambia in 1980 during a visit by a Guyanese team headed by Col. Desmond Roberts, then Director-General of GNS.

A protocol was drawn up at a meeting of heads of National Services of three countries. Now that the protocol has been ratified by the Governments, the first formal meeting of ONS is taking place with others to be held in Tanzania and Zambia in 1984 and 1986 before the time-table is re-scheduled for possible new members, General Fara said.

Director-General of GNS, Col. Joe Singh, who welcomed delegates, read out the objectives of ONS for the benefit of the invitees.

New ONS Chairman

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 82 p 8

[Text]	DIRECTOR-General of the Guyana National Service, Colonel Joe Singh, is the new	chairman of the three-nation Organisation of National Services (ONS).	The Director-General was elected during working sessions of the ONS over the weekend.
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Tanzania has offered to host the next meeting of the Organisation in 1984. A date is to be announced shortly.

This decision follows the conclusion of the conference at the Guyana National Service Sports Complex yesterday. The ONS comprises the National Services of Zambia, Tanzania and Guyana.

Cde. Singh takes over from Zambian Brigadier General Tom Fara who was in the seat for the past two years. During

their stay here intensive discussions were held with respect to improving co-operation in the areas of culture, training, production and administration.

The visitors paid courtesy calls on President Forbes Burnham, Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force Brigadier General Norman McLean and City Mayor Mavis Benn.

They also toured various GNS locations in addition to places of interest.

CSO: 3298/231

FIFTEEN PUBLIC OFFICIALS JOIN DEFENSE FORCE RESERVE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Fifteen public officers from various disciplines yesterday received instruments of commission from President Forbes Burnham, making them officers in the Reserve of the Guyana Defence Force. All the newly commissioned officers will serve with the Guyana People's Militia.

President Burnham, in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, presented the instruments at a special ceremony in the compound of The Residence, coinciding with the sixth anniversary of the GPM.

After the ceremony, the new Reserve Officers were among specially invited guests at an informal get-together in the Villa situated in the compound of The Residence.

GPM Commander Colonel Carl Morgan said it was the first time that so many Reserve Officers had been commissioned at the same time. He explained though that it was part of the on-going programme to recruit Reserve Officers from among working persons.

"In fact some of them had been commissioned before but were now receiving the instruments," Col. Morgan added.

He said the officers had all gone through training programmes. Heading the list of the new Reserve Officers yesterday were Dr. Lloyd Goddette of the University of Guyana who was commissioned a Major.

Others were Capt. Ron Phillips of Guyana National Newspapers, Dr. Gladstone Mitchell of Suddie Hospital (Capt.) and K. Lall (teacher), O. Cambridge (Guymine), M. C. Serrao (GNTC), B. Bisphan (National Shipping Association), L. C. Robinson (Male Nurse, Fort Canje Hospital), E. Henry (BIDCO), C. Blue (GFL), H. Edwards (self-employed), B. Bryan (GAC), G. P. Hamilton (teacher), J. Cummings (Guymine) and J. A. Jerrick (GTC) all Lieutenants.

CSO: 3298/231

PRIME MINISTER STRESSES PREPAREDNESS AT PUBLIC RALLY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 82 p 8

[Text]

Prime Minister Cde. Ptolemy Reid yesterday called on Guyanese to be in a state of preparedness and not to allow their minds to be weakened by the weapons that are being used against Guyana.

We are faced with not only territorial aggression but also economic and social aggression, he said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a rally in New Amsterdam to mark the completion of a ten-day tactical and physical training - iron weed exercise - by members of the Army, the People's Militia and the Guyana National Service.

The exercise which is the third of its kind was designed to improve the professional responsibility of the soldiers and the para-military men, in preparation for the defence of Guyana's territorial integrity.

According to the Force Commander, David Granger, the participants have endured and learnt a lot and are now prepared to carry out defensive operations in any part of Guyana's border.

The training which started in the high areas at Timehri covered a wide expanse of area in the jungle and swamp lands ranging through to Ituni and Kimbia up the Berbice river. Reports say that throughout the exercise the spirit and morale of the men were high and good even up to their final five mile march yesterday from Everton to New Amsterdam where the Prime Minister took the salute.

Cde Reid who deputised for the President told the soldiers that the training is to make you physically fit and is to keep you in a state of preparedness so that nothing can turn you back.

The Prime Minister also explained that many large countries not withstanding their technological advancement in material and military hardware, concentrate on conquering the minds of people. For once you conquer the minds of people, he said, you are certain to have victory.

And to do this they have great weapons to carry out this psychological warfare.

But the Prime Minister pointed out that Guyanese must be

prepared not to allow their minds to be weakened by weapons not only military but economic and social aggression. He pointed to the international media and the propaganda which make Guyana a target. This strategy, he said, is clear and well documented and the tactics are both overt and covert.

As a result, he said, Guyanese must be strong not only physically but mentally and our counter to it all must be understanding and knowledge, one of commitment, loyalty and an unshakable concern for Guyana.

CSO: 3298/232

NATIONAL SERVICES CAMPS WILL FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 82 pp 4-5

[Text]

GUYANA National Service Director-General, Joe Singh has said that Camp Cocos aback of Hope Estate is one of several to be established in all the regions of Guyana to get young children involved in the development of Guyana.

He said more particularly, the camps would concentrate mainly on agriculture which might be the salvation of the country in the reconstruction of the economy.

Cde. Singh made his remarks after Commanding Officer of the Young Brigade and National Cadet Corps, Major L.A. Benn gave a lengthy history of the camp. The new camp was declared open by President Forbes Burnham as part of the eighth anniversary celebrations of the YB & NCC.

Major Benn remarked that the structures, facilities and amenities which invitees were able to see at Camp Cocos were the results of hard work by the young militants under the guidance of Col. Singh

and with the assistance of the President himself.

Major Benn said that apart from the crops, including coconuts and green vegetables already in the ground, there are to be fish ponds and animal husbandry.

He pointed out that from the outset every care was taken to avoid

haphazard development and the services of experts in many fields from both private and public sector agencies and institutions were recruited.

Since the 72 acres (of land) were handed over to the GNS in July, a two-mile long ingress-egress road adjoining cross-

roads and dams was constructed leading to the camp aback of Hope.

Three bridges have been constructed and the main canal and side trenches were dug simultaneously with the clearing and making up of the dwelling area.

Several structures, permanent and temporary were erected for living quarters, offices, stores, kitchen, dining hall, etc.

A plot was also prepared for a playground, and land was prepared for planting.

Already the YB & NCC campers have cultivated several acres of plantain, banana, sorrel, legumes, vine crops and some of their produce was sold at the World Food Day Exhibition and Fair on October 16.

The YB & NCC is the youthful arm of the GNS through which children still at school are involved in National Service. School children will make use of the camp during vacation periods.

CSO: 3298/232

RICE SHIPMENTS TO JAMAICA RESUMED; TEAM TO VISIT HERE

Shipment Statistics

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Dec 82 p 8

[Text]

JAMAICA will resume purchase of Guyana rice from January 1983. A

shipment of 1 000 tons of parboiled rice will be sent to the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) island-nation during the first week in January, Guyana Rice Board (GRB) General Manager Leon Dundas disclosed yesterday.

A second shipment of 200 tons will follow shortly afterwards to complete the GRB's first consignment of rice to Jamaica in over a year, Cde. Dundas told the Chronicle.

Guyana's recapture of the Jamaica rice market was spearheaded by President Forbes Burnham during discussions with Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga while attending the successfully-convened third CARICOM Heads of Government summit in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, from November 16 to 18.

The discussions were followed up by Agricultural Adviser to the President, Cde Gavin Kennard, and Cde Dundas, in Kingston, and are to be continued in Georgetown next week with the arrival here of a

two-member Jamaican trade delegation.

Jamaica, a traditional market for Guyana's rice, had suspended purchases claiming it had already arranged for supplies from the United States at a far more competitive price.

One observer here said

yesterday that Jamaica's "change of heart" had apparently been influenced "by the concept of brotherhood in Caricom and in keeping with the spirit of intra-regional trade."

The question of price is expected to be resolved, and arrangements are to be sealed for further shipments, at next week's talks between the Jamaicans and GRB officials.

Meanwhile, 200 tons of packaged parboiled rice will leave Corriverton for Trinidad and Tobago tomorrow evening on the M.V. Edam.

This shipment, which will also include bulk white rice, is the second to the twin-island state since Port-of-Spain authorities called a halt to shipments in September to avoid further congestion of that city's busy port.

Sales to Trinidad and Tobago resumed last month, when 450 tons were exported.

Meanwhile, loading of M.V. Kate is proceeding apace with 211 tons of rice for Barbados and 27 tons for Grenada.

Jamaican Trade Delegation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

A THREE-MEMBER Jamaican trade delegation began two days of negotiations with Guyana Rice Board officials yesterday on the finalising of an agreement on GRB rice sales to that island.

The negotiations with the GRB represented part of wider talks the Jamaicans are having with Guyanese officials, extending and strengthening of bilateral trade between the two CARICOM member-states.

The Jamaicans and the GRB team met all morning yesterday and resumed joint discussions late afternoon, under the chairmanship of GRB General Manager, Leon Dundas, to arrive at a firm consensus on Jamaica's purchase of rice from Guyana.

The Jamaican team comprises Mr. Allan Alberga, Legal Adviser and Corporate Secretary of the Trading Company of Jamaica; Mrs. Andree Nembhard, Commodity Manager of the same company; and Mr. Fredrick Roderick Lewis, Managing Director of Jamaica's Master Blend Feeds Limited.

The negotiations are a follow-up to preliminary discussions the two sides

had in Jamaica two weeks ago, with Cde. Dundas and Cde. Gavin Kennard, Agricultural Adviser to the President, representing Guyana.

The talks in Jamaica have already resulted in the island-nation placing an initial order of 1 000 tons of rice to be shipped to Kingston during the first week of January 1983.

Discussions between the Jamaicans and the wider Guyanese team are expected to conclude today.

CSO: 3298/232

GAIBANK PERFORMANCE COMMENDED; FARMING LOAN ADVANCE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 82 p 5

[Text] GAIBANK has been able to disburse several million dollars in loans for economic programmes, including agricultural activities over the past months.

According to a senior official of the bank, \$11.8 million (G) was approved and 1854 applications processed up to the end of October this year. The amount disbursed, however, totalled \$5.5 million dollars (G), and is part of the Food Crop Programme, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Loans have been requested by farmers and agricultural groups from the Essequibo Region. Crops cultivated in the Region and on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway include peanuts, ground provisions and corn.

GAIBANK has undertaken a rice production — credit facilities programme, formerly conducted by the Guyana Rice Board, which now concentrates on the direct marketing of farmers' produce.

During the last two months, GAIBANK extended special loans to

rice millers, and estimated that up to 3 000 farmers, initially, will benefit. Loans processed by the Industrial Development Unit of the Bank and appraised by the IDB, are to be used for refurbishing rice mills, and expanding drying floors and storage bonds.

Rice millers will benefit from loans to the tune of approximately \$7 million (G). A team from the Unit will visit East Berbice-Corentyne next week to discuss with rice millers possible funding for industrial programmes.

Meanwhile agents have been identified in the various rice-producing Regions for the distribution of insecticides, fertilisers and other farming inputs. The Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC) is solely responsible for obtaining these inputs. It is expected that before year-end, all Regions should receive their share of agro-chemicals, the official said.

With the completion of the first phase of the Mahaica-Mahaicony Abary project in 1983, GAIBANK will increase its lending facility to include purchasing of machinery and equipment, and other inputs, the GAIBANK official

explained. More than 50 000 acres of rice and other crops will benefit from drainage and irrigation schemes, he said.

PUBLIC CALLED 'FOOT SOLDIERS' IN FIGHT TO BUILD ECONOMY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

Minister of Finance Cde Sallahuddin has told the people on the Corentyne that everyone must consider themselves "foot soldiers" in the battle to reconstruct and develop the economy of Guyana.

"This is a testing time to single out your friends who have strong breast plates from those who will chicken out," the Finance Minister said.

The Minister who was speaking at the first annual district conference of the People's National Congress (PNC) at Rose Hall Town Primary School on Sunday, hit out at the smuggling of goods across the borders.

He said that government would enforce the laws and anyone caught breaching the Licence Import Act would be dealt with.

The Minister explained that traders and hucksters along with others who wish to bring in goods to put in the stream of commerce, must have an import licence.

Cde Sallahuddin, in pointing out that Guyana's economy is on a war footing, explained that this is not a war

based on physical combat where we are preparing for an exchange of gun shots.

The Finance Minister said that to overcome the economic difficulties the underdeveloped nations are seeking to promulgate a New International Economic Order to regulate development.

The Finance Minister called upon party members and party activists to be leading "foot soldiers" in their community in the battle to bring about economic recovery.

He urged the participants to maintain the party as the vanguard and working class party and to help convince people that they can live with the food we produce.

Cde Sallahuddin also installed the new district executives and gave them the charge to continue their good work.

GNA

ON THE FOOD FRONT: SUPPLIES, PRODUCTIVITY IN SPOTLIGHT

Cheap-Fish Program

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 82 p 1

[Excerpts]

A GOVERNMENT sponsored programme aimed at providing cheap fish to consumers at \$1.00 a pound, got under way in Georgetown yesterday and is expected to reach top gear today.

Vehicles from the state-run Guyana Fisheries Limited (GFL) will today be in the North and South Ruimveldt areas selling fish while Atlanticville on the East Coast of Demerara is slated for tomorrow and Kitty as well as Campbellville will be served on Thursday. Chairman of the GFL Robert Williams said yesterday.

And the GFL, which is slowly wiping off a \$6M deficit, is currently negotiating with other state agencies to reduce the prices of processed fish such as snapper and trout.

The GFL chairman made it clear, however, that any vendor found selling above the controlled price will be struck off the list. On the same note Vice-President for Agriculture Hamilton Green, who is spearheading the programme, has appealed to vendors to sell at the stipulated \$1.00 per pound.

This interim measure to take fish to the people will continue until reliable fish vendors are found, Cde. Williams said.

The 'fish-to-the people programme' will also

extend to the various regions. A number of fish distribution co-ordinators have been identified in Regions Three, Six, Eight, and salted fish will be sent to the outlying areas.

The move by government to reduce the price was first announced by President Forbes Burnham recently in an effort to ease the economic burdens of the working class.

Reduced Beef Prices

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 82 p 4

[Excerpts] Beef, one of the nation's staples, is currently available at a reduced price in at least six state-run outlets.

Disclosing this yesterday, Marketing Manager of the Guyana Marketing Corporation Gur Persaud, said that the product is being sold at a maximum price of \$5.50 per pound at the outlets.

Last week, an estimated 36 000 pounds of beef was delivered to government outlets for sale to the public and up to yesterday all outlets indicated that the demand has been heavy.

It was explained that beef supplies are obtainable from these outlets in one, two and five-pounds packets, and that generally, no consumer would be sold more than ten pounds of beef.

Supplies of beef are being sent to outlets by the meat Marketing Corporation in the Rupununi. Guyana's

Beef is also sold at Municipal markets in the country and at rural butcheries but at higher prices. In recent weeks, limited supplies of chicken placed a heavier demand for beef.

Government has sought to revive the chicken shortage by realising some foreign exchange to import hatching eggs. Poultry producers say that chicken would be on sale in time for the Christmas holiday. Meanwhile chicken is costing up to \$10 a pound and beef as much as \$7 a pound at non-governmental outlets.

As part of the government's programme to combat the spiralling cost of living, efforts are being made to reduce not only the price of beef, but also fish and green vegetables.

More demand for ground provisions has resulted in higher prices for these products. Middlemen trading has kept the prices of vegetables up.

Rumors on Rice Supply

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 82 p 4

[Text]

The Guyana Rice Board is investigating the substance of rumours that there is a shortage of parboiled rice on the local market.

The GRB's Marketing Department reportedly assured Guyanese yesterday that there is

enough parboiled rice available to satisfy the local market.

Marketing Officer Poonauth Maraj nor any other senior management personnel could not be contacted for further comment up to press time.

A brief statement from the corporation earlier in the day said the GRB was not aware of any shortage of parboiled rice, but it nevertheless had decided to investigate reports circulating that a shortage of the product existed.

Guyana Consumers' Association Secretary Cashmir Mittelholzer said yesterday his organisation is not satisfied that enough parboiled rice is available to meet mounting demand for the product. "Parboiled rice has been a most difficult commodity to get in any period" particularly over the last two years, Mr Mittelholzer remarked.

Pigeon Pea Tree Drive

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 82 p 4

[Text]

"A PIGEON PEA TREE IN EVERY YARD" - that is the slogan proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture for the citizens of Georgetown, at the introduction of a new phase of government's programme on urban farming.

The slogan was suggested by Vice-President (Agriculture) Hamilton Green when he spoke with a gathering of citizens at weekend.

Directing the discourse to the need for national self-reliance in food, Vice-President Green reminded Guyanese that pigeon pea is a rich source of protein and vitamins, is easy to grow and cook, and is one of the legume vegetable crops that has economic potential as a foreign exchange earner.

Pigeon pea is a favourite Caribbean food and is in demand both at home and abroad, he added.

Urban farming began to take shape earlier this year when government introduced its "land to the tiller" programme, leasing unutilised plots of land to interested persons

and promoting "kitchen gardening and parapet farming in and around Georgetown.

Cde Green, who also was delivering the keynote address at the first annual conference of the Georgetown District of the PNC, said the Ministry of Agriculture intends to work even closer with the Georgetown City Council to ensure that idle state lands are fully cultivated and that the citizens of Georgetown feed themselves by their own efforts.

Such a move would ease the consumer-pressure on rural farmers, impact more strongly on the country's

food import bill and leave rural farmers free to pay more attention to producing surpluses for overseas markets, the Vice-President indicated.

"Georgetown has enough land mass to supplement Guyana's food programme," he stressed.

He urged the delegates at the conference to set the example by planting up their yards and suggested that the slogan "At least one

pigeon pea tree in every yard," should be carried by PNC members in the form of cultivation of the crop in their gardens and on their parapets.

"We cannot give leadership if we who are members of the party grow grass instead of food," the Vice-President for Agriculture remarked.

Inland Fishing Development

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 82 pp 4-5

[Text]

"Over half million dollars would be spent in Region 6-East Berbice-Corentyne in 1983 for development of inland and marine fishing," said Fisheries Officer, George Bailey yesterday.

To boost the industry and to provide fishermen with improved and upgraded services and facilities, the Fisheries Officer said, a series of development projects would be undertaken for the new year in the region.

Cde. Bailey explained that, through the Guyana-Canada bilateral fisheries programme, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) would be funding the establishment of an ice-making plant and a fish landing wharf at No. 66 and the construction of a fish centre at No. 43 on the Corentyne.

The regional administration will be spending over 4000 dollars in establishing a regional fish culture unit at the regional farm in New Amsterdam.

This project which is to begin shortly will include the setting up of two brood ponds and a commercial demonstration pond with a capacity of 25 000 singlings within the first six months.

According to Cde. Bailey, the regional fish culture unit will serve as a booster for the development of inland fishing in the region.

He pointed out that there are over 30

registered inland ponds in the region and shortly there would be some 1 000 acres under brackish water for fish cultivation on the Corentyne.

This venture, he said, will involve foreshore fish development at No. 19, No. 53 villages, Tain and Whim.

—(GNA)

Ham, Bacon Shortage

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 82 p 8

[Text] Ham and bacon will be on sale within the next two weeks, but there will be less on the market this Christmas, according to Dr. Thomas Richmond, head of the state-owned Ham and Bacon Factory on the East Bank of Demerara.

In an interview with the CHRONICLE yesterday, Dr. Richmond said processing of the two items are well under way, but the factory is unlikely to produce more than 15 000 pounds for the Christmas season, some 50 per cent less than supplied to the market in 1981.

The projected shortfall has been attributed to a sharp decrease in pig-rearing, due in part to the protracted difficulty in obtaining feeds.

The factory's intake of pigs has also been affected by what farmers say are the unattractive prices paid to them by government and a reduction of incentives to production.

Dr. Richmond said he interpreted the farmers' contention to mean that they were offered better prices for their produce by restaurants and other places.

Those who have quit pig-farming claim that the comparatively low price paid for their produce by government, had added to constraints already experienced through government's cancellation of arrangements under which the Guyana Marketing Corporation assured regular supplies of feed for their animals, transported the feed to their doorsteps at concessionary cost and transported the sold animals to the Ham and Bacon Factory.

"Supplies of pig feed are no longer certain and it is still rather difficult to obtain credit to intensify production," a farmer explained yesterday.

Dr. Richmond said the general consumption pattern had also changed, resulting in a drop in demand for pork.

To make the industry more lucrative, the factory has decided to pay farmers \$6.00 per pound for their produce, more than double the price of \$2.60 per pound fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr. Richmond said the factory still provides transportation for collecting animals, but some farmers have their own transportation.

Beef, Turkey Processing

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Nov 82 p 5

[Text] **PROCESSED BEEF** this Christmas by the Ham and Bacon Factory. Together with smoked chicken and ham and bacon, the factory anticipates that its two new products will provide Guyanese with a varied market for the first time

and tasty diet of animal protein over the next few weeks.

The factory expects to market 15 000 pounds of processed or smoked beef, about 5 000 pounds of smoked turkey, 5 000 pounds of smoked chicken and 15 000 pounds of ham and bacon this Christmas, factory manager Dr. Thomas Richmond told the Chronicle yesterday.

One of the new products, processed beef, is being prepared like ham and bacon and is intended to supplement the two pork products, Dr. Richmond said.

A sample of 1 000 pounds sold like "hot cakes" within a few days of it appearing on the market and more will be made available to the public next week.

A brand name for the

beef product is being selected by a panel and should be known to the

public by mid-next week.

Meantime, the product will be sold in ham/bacon packets, with a sticker included on the package to indicate the type of meat in it.

Dr. Richmond said this situation will prevail until the factory gets a supply of packages from overseas, since the local plastic company is unable to manufacture the type of package needed for such a product.

Overmechanization of Rice

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Dec 82 p 4

[Text]

OVER-

MECHANISATION is the main problem facing the rice industry in Guyana, according to Vice-President responsible for Agriculture, Cde. Hamilton Green.

Disclosing this to professional agriculturalists on Wednesday night, Cde. Green said that because of pressure from the international business community, and influence of imported magazines, machines were bought on a large scale.

Noting that maintenance of machinery is very expensive, he stated that there could result a situation where all the returns from work are channelled into keeping the machines running, thus leaving nothing for development.

The Vice-President was addressing a meeting of the Society of Professional Agriculturalists in Guyana (SPAG) at the Guyana Teachers Association Hall.

Cde. Green said that the nation must seek to make optimum use of its resources. One way by which this could be done, he said, was in getting an adequate labour force for reaping crops and that entire communities could be mobilised for this. He further said that school vacations should be scheduled to coincide with harvesting time in the various communities.

On an issue raised by some SPAG members about political decisions taking priority over technical decisions Cde. Green asserted that political and technical

decisions could be harmonised.

Further he said that in respect of certain political decisions he had no apologies. He cited the case of his stopping research on legumes and instructing staff to plant strains already known and tested. He said that such a move would ensure that the nation is getting legumes to eat even if they were of only one type.

Cde. Green spoke of the need to have more

academically qualified persons involved in farming, adding that school programmes need to orient pupils towards agriculture and make

them get a different view of it. He lamented a still current practice of seeing this field of work as a last resort, a practice very

evident in the Ministry of Labour when he was head.

The Agri-Minister dismissed a contention by a professional agriculturalist that the brain drain in this field was because of the low salaries offered. While conceding that the remuneration might be low, Cde Green claimed that many persons use this issue as an excuse to leave.

He further added that according to United Nations statistics, the brain power leaving the developing world for the developed world greatly exceeded aid coming from the developed world to the developing world. He complimented those persons who remained in agriculture despite lucrative offers from abroad.

Rich Shortage Denial

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Dec 82 p 8

[Text] **GUYANA Rice Board** General Manager, Leon Dundas, replying Wednesday to the CHRONICLE question concerning reports of a rice shortage on the local market, said there is no shortage.

His answer echoed explanations by Marketing Officer Poonauth Maraj, who told reporters last week the GRB had no knowledge of any gap between supply and demand for parboiled rice on the domestic market.

Cde Dundas, recently back from a sales promotion trip to Jamaica, said it was true that larger shipments of

parboiled rice were being exported as a result of an appreciable rise in overseas demand.

But rather than cut into stocks earmarked for domestic distribution, consignments were being filled from a corresponding increase in parboiled production.

A new complex at Anna Regina, Essequibo, to be commissioned shortly, is targeted to process 30 per cent of this year's harvests into parboiled rice, Cde Dundas noted.

The GRB chief added that the local demand for parboiled rice seems to have drooped as more and more Guyanese show a marked preference for the faster-cooking white rice.

"Stocks made available in some areas, and even our Rice Board stocks, have certainly not been moving as quickly as before.

"Added to that, much of the rice flooding the local market is distributed directly by farmer-producers as a result of the GRB's new approach to production and domestic marketing," Cde Dundas explained.

Millers seemed to be dominating the entire local distribution system, making it difficult for the GRB to come up with a prompt assessment of the availability of a particular variety or grade of rice on the market, he said.

Consumers and dealers alike are still free to make purchases directly from the GRB, Cde Dundas added, and can get their supplies at the following fixed prices:

No. 1 White Rice - \$49 for a 110-lb bag; and \$79.90 for a 180-lb bag.

No. 1 Parboiled Rice - \$49 for a 110-lb bag and \$79.90 for a 180-lb bag.

Parboiled Super - \$86.40 for a 180-lb bag.

Packaged White Rice - \$18.50 for a 30-lb packet; \$37 for a 60-lb packet.

Packaged Parboiled - \$38.50 for a 60-lb packet.

Sugar Output

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 5 Dec 82 p 9

[Text]

ALTHOUGH two (Uitvlugt and Leonora) of Guysuco's ten factories have completed their grinding schedules for the year, the Industry was still able to surpass its target for the last week in a turnabout over the previous week's performance.

A total of 7,665 tons of sugar was produced against the targeted figure of 7,590 as six of the estates produced above their targets. This has allowed the total for the Second Crop to reach 190,037 tons of sugar, 6,652 tons above the estimated total of 183,385 tons.

For the year 276,892 tons of sugar have been produced and with four

weeks remaining, the Industry's officials are optimistic that the year's projection of 280,000 tons will be achieved, although operations are winding down on the remaining locations.

Uitvlugt which had a Second Crop target of 15,100 completed its programme with an achievement of 12,740 tons, while Leonora surpassed its target for the Crop by producing 10,547 which is 697 tons above its estimate of 9,850 tons.

The six estates which achieved their targets and have been placed on the Guysuco Honours Roll are:

Skeldon, 1090 tons which is 140 tons over its

target; Albion Port Mourant, 350 tons over its target of 1400 tons; Rose Hall, 1145 tons which is 145 tons above its targeted figure; Blairmont, 950 tons, 50 tons over its target; Enmore, 810 tons which is 460 tons over its target and Diamond, 640 tons, 95 tons above the projection for the week.

Meanwhile Guysuco's Industrial Relations officials will be holding talks again this week with officials of GAWU, NAACIE, and the GFW & SU to further examine the points raised at meetings last week with respect to the Annual Production Incentive (API) for sugar estate workers for 1982.

Supplies for Linden

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

THE Ministry of Agriculture is taking further steps to make available more beef and fish at controlled prices to assist Linden residents to meet their protein requirements.

This was told to the residents by Vice President responsible for Agriculture Hamilton Green on Sunday evening when he addressed delegates of the Upper Demerara District's First Annual conference under the new district structure.

The Vice President said that Guyanese concept of starvation was not getting what they wanted to eat, a concept which he said was quite contrary to

that of the Africans and Asians who are at present passing through similar stages of development.

Guyana, he said, needed to be self-reliant in food if economic independence was to be achieved. It was an unfortunate error when government allowed to grow a strong dependence on foreign food products such as wheat flour, Cde. Green stressed.

Cde. Green said that he hoped that out of this crisis would emerge

people who would be more oriented to Guyana's food products, and appealed to consumers to desist from criticising the rice and try to devise ways of improving its usefulness.

The conference was declared open by Regional Chairman Patricia Daniel and was attended by a number of heads of agencies some of whom made on-the-spot responses to questions made by delegates. (GNA).

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 82 p 5

[Text]

PRIME Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid Saturday called on Guyanese to use their own food as a foundation of political independence so as to promote successfully the economic independence of Guyana.

Cde. Reid was addressing a large crowd which had gathered at the Mackenzie Sports Club to observe the Guyana People's Militia's sixth anniversary.

Fourteen officers and other ranks received medals of award for services extending as far back as the reserved British Guiana Company.

Guymine's Chief Executive Officer Dustan Barrow was also awarded for the Company's support to the militia.

"Each of us is entitled to the right to live, and in every forum today we hear the loud call for human rights and democracy. Yet, the situation in South Africa, the territorial aggression against Guyana and the economic exploitation on the international market leave no doubt of the discrepancy between proclamation and practice," Dr. Reid said.

The Prime Minister stressed that we in Guyana, as patrons of peace, have a right to life, "and there must be, if there is any human rights at all, our right in this country of ours, to establish our own social and political system."

The militiamen were told that in passing a new landmark they must reflect on the training acquired as the occasion gives birth to another opportunity to plan our

future tasks which can only be accomplished through strong will and attitudes.

He said that part of the militia's task is to work for the recovery of the economy.

Dr. Reid urged them to have a close look at the Cde. Leader's 8-point prescription for economic recovery which include the careful management of managerial resources and reserves, greater production and productivity — intelligent exploitation of natural resources — stricter discipline — war on waste — resolute pursuit of our socialist objectives — intimate involvement of all our people and courage — never submitting nor yielding.

The P.M. called on the Militia personnel to recommit themselves to strengthening Guyana's capabilities, and expressed the hope that by now all the disciplined forces were seriously concentrating on the various forms of aggression against Guyana so that they can be fully prepared. (GNA).

Support for Fishing Co-Ops

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Dec 82 p 8

[Text]

Fishermen societies will soon purchase fish from their members and sell the commodity to the public.

In addition, Government, with the aid of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the European Economic Community (EEC), is to provide more infrastructure for fishermen co-operatives.

These moves are in keeping with Government's policy to provide a larger quantity of fish protein for the Guyanese people.

Already more equipment has been made available to fishermen to

boost their catch and the price of fish has been dropped.

These disclosures were made last Sunday by Principal Fisheries Officer Reuben Charles as he declared open a Co-op shop established by the Upper West Coast Demerara Fishermen Co-operative Society.

The shop, situated on the Hague Public Road, will now provide requisites such as rope, twine, net and hooks for the fishermen in the area.

This will save them the trouble of travelling to Georgetown to get supplies. The shop will also serve as the society's

headquarters.

Cde Charles said the move to open the shop was a positive one since the society has been dormant for some time now.

The society, established in 1964, responded in April this year to revive itself and elect new executive members.

Since then, membership rose from 24 to 42 and more members are offering financial support.

Chairman is Fazil Rahman while secretary is Aswin Azeez. The treasurer is Thakoram Sukhram. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/233/234

BRIEFS

MINISTRY PERSONNEL CHANGES--President Forbes Burnham has approved a number of appointments, transfers, new postings and re-designations of Permanent Secretaries in various Ministries. Cde J. S. M. Worrel, who was Permanent Secretary in the Public Service Ministry but was attached to the Office of the Prime Minister has now been confirmed and appointed as PS there. And Cde Joyce Sinclair, who was Supernumerary Permanent Secretary in the Economic Planning and Finance Ministry has now taken over from Cde Worrel as Permanent Secretary PSM. Cde Worrel's appointment takes effect from October 6, 1980, while Cde Sinclair's is effective from November 11, 1982. M. L. Persaud, formerly Permanent Secretary in the Drainage and Irrigation Ministry of the Ministry of Agriculture has been re-designated Deputy Permanent Secretary in the same department from November 11, 1982. In the same Ministry, Cde John Browman, a former Chief Agricultural Officer and Acting Permanent Secretary in the Agriculture Ministry has now been confirmed as Permanent Secretary, a release from the Public Service Commission stated Friday. The release added that Cde R. Sivanand, Personnel Officer of the Guyana State Corporation (GUYSTAC) goes over to the PSM as Deputy Permanent Secretary. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 82 p 8]

CONSUMPTION TAX REMISSION--Georgetown, Guyana, Tuesday (CANA)--The Guyana Cabinet has decided that from year-end local manufacturers are to be granted a remission of consumption taxes on all goods intended for export, the state-owned media has quoted Vice President for economic Planning and Finance, Desmond Hoyte as saying. Speaking to the first joint meeting of the recently formed Export Promotion and Industrial Development Council at the Bank of Guyana, Mr. Hoyte said that government was steadfast in its recognition of the need for a viable and confident private sector. It was even now negotiating for lines of credit from agencies and other countries in order to secure essentials for Guyana's industrial development he added. The waiver of the 10 per cent consumption tax on exports had been requested for some time by local manufacturers in order to make Guyana products more competitive. It is to be granted to companies initially from a two-year period with the guarantee of routine renewal at yearly intervals thereafter. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Nov 82 p 3]

VANDALISM AT GOV'T SITES--Regional executive officer Eustace Wilson of East Berbice Corentyne has expressed concern about the high incidence of vandalism committed on schools and other government buildings in the region and he has

suggested that the regional budget cater for the strengthening of security at the institutions. He said that whilst the region was spending large sums of money on repairs to buildings, destructive elements were carrying out an attack on them. Speaking at a heads-of-department meeting at the regional board-room in New Amsterdam on the region's 1983 budget, Cde. Wilson stressed the need for the region to increase its security staff from twenty-three to seventy-five. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 82 p 4]

LOCAL GOV'T BUDGETS--Two towns and four district councils in the East Berbice Corentyne region have presented a total budget of 2,3 million dollars for 1983. Five of the estimates including those from Rose Hall Town and Corriverton offered tax-free concessions as Christmas gifts for properties. But the councillors of Hogstye Lancaster whose estimate was the smallest \$53477, have increased their rates by two per cent to meet the cost of urgent development works in the area. The Local Authority also plans to apply for a \$238 000 loan from Giabank for agricultural development. All the budgets of the six Local Government districts were accepted last Saturday by the regional administration which has forwarded them for final approval by the Ministry of National Development. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 82 p 3]

TREASON TRIAL ACQUITTAL--The controversial West Demerara treason case came to a sudden end yesterday when the State offered no further evidence and the judge directed the mixed jury to acquit the accused. Ivan Sookram called Ivan Boodram, of De Willem, West Coast, Demerara, was freed after Justice Rudolph Harper discharged him. Sookram was the only one of five men originally charged with treason to face jury trial. Of those, one was never arrested and three others were freed in the magistrate's court. There were three preliminary inquiries. A magistrate who conducted two of them resigned subsequently. Sookram was arraigned last week Monday but when the first witness sought to tender an alleged confession statement, defence lawyers led by Mr. Doodnauth Singh challenged its admissibility. Justice Harper ordered a *voire dire* (a trial within a trial) to decide the issue and ruled in favour of the defence after hearing about a dozen witnesses and legal arguments over five days. The statement having been rejected by the judge on the ground that it was not free and voluntary, State Prosecutor Sheik Insanally was to have begun leading other evidence yesterday. On the resumption yesterday morning, however, the prosecutor said the State was offering no further evidence. Justice Harper told the jury that there was not sufficient evidence on the record for them to be asked to consider a verdict on the three-count indictment and directed them to return a formal verdict of not guilty. Sookram, 37, had been accused of treason and of possession of arms and ammunition. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Nov 82 p 1]

BURNHAM ON BARBADOS TIES--President Forbes Burnham has expressed confidence that the success of the recent CARICOM Summit will result in closer collaboration and consolidation of the ties between Barbados and Guyana. In a message to the Governor-General of Barbados, His Excellency, Sir Deighton Ward, on the occasion of that country's National Day, today President Burnham said: "As you celebrate your sixteenth anniversary of independence, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of the government and people of Guyana, and on my own behalf, to extend warmest felicitations to you, the Government and people of

Barbados. "Heartened by the success of the recent CARICOM Summit, I am confident that the ensuing years will witness closer collaboration and the consolidation of the ties between our two countries as we strive to realise the common aspirations of our Caribbean peoples. "With our greetings go our best wishes for your personal well-being and the continued prosperity of your country."--(GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Nov 82 p 1]

REGIONAL COUNCIL-GOV'T TEAMWORK--Minister responsible for National and Regional Development Robert Corbin has called on local government officers to work in close collaboration with Regional Democratic Councils. Speaking yesterday at the opening session of a two-day seminar for regional local government officers at the boardroom of the Regional Development Ministry, the Minister said that working closely with the Regional Democratic Councils will pave the way for a smooth and positive development process of plans set out by the local government agencies. The seminar which has as its theme 'leadership through training' allows participants the opportunity to become aware of the functions of the Regional Democratic Councils and gives an insight into the role they have to play in the new structure. Minister Corbin said that the regional local government should involve the RDCs in the planning of all their programmes in order to ensure that there is complete co-ordination of activities in the regions. This, he said was important since decisions have to be made by the Minister of Regional Development in Georgetown who in most cases is completely unaware of the situation in the different districts. The seminar is one of a series sponsored by the ministry throughout the country. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 82 p 4]

BAUXITE KILN SHUTDOWN--Georgetown, Mon., (CANA): The soft market for Guyana's bauxite products and overflowing stockpiles have forced the Guyana bauxite industry to halt kiln operations at the main mining centre in Linden, on the Demerara River, for over two weeks, an industry official has said. "On November 15, the entire bauxite plant was taken off steam primarily because of full storage," bauxite production manager at Linden, Jimmy Kranenburg, said in a radio interview yesterday. "On that date, we had 53,430 tonnes of bauxite products in the storage buildings and 23,000 tonnes stored outdoors. He added that during the period the opportunity was taken to carry out repairs at the plant. He said that by November 30 the stockpile in the storage building had fallen to 12,500 tonnes. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Dec 82 p 4]

CSO: 3298/235

BRIEFS

BOMBS DEFUSED--Port-au-Prince, 6 Jan (CANA-REUTER)--Haitian police defused a booby-trapped suitcase in the Finance Ministry and a parcel bomb in the main post office yesterday, sources close to the government said today. The new bombs followed a car bomb explosion in the early hours of January 1 which killed three people and which the government said was the work of a previously unknown organisation, the Miami-based Hector Riode group. The sources said today a light plane had landed twice in a field about 20 km (12 miles) from the capital soon after the car bomb went off, apparently to pick up the bombers. The government has said the car bomb was planted by a U.S. citizen named as Alan C. Mills, who was one of those killed in the blast. [Excerpt] [FL062100 Bridgetown CANA in English 2032 GMT 6 Jan 83]

CSO: 3298/1186

NIGERIA EYEING SUGAR IMPORTS, OTHER TRADE ACTIVITIES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Dec 82 p 3

[Text] MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, Thursday, (CANA) — Nigeria, which this year expects to import some US\$300 million worth of sugar, is interested in buying this commodity from Jamaica, says High Commissioner A.E.H. Emenyi. In an address to the Montego Bay Rotary Club Tuesday, the diplomat said the Nigerian High Commission in Kingston had been receiving trade enquiries on radios, cotton fabrics, hand-woven embroidered fabrics and handicrafts made in Nigeria.

Mr. Emenyi made out a strong case for improved trade and economic co-operation between the private sectors of Nigeria and Jamaica.

But, he pointed out that "We will require initiative, resolve, entrepreneurial skills, among other things, to surmount obstacles which will confront our two peoples."

Since 1976, Nigeria has imported rum, chemicals, food, products, garments, terrazzo tiles and furniture from Jamaica.

In 1978, the two countries signed a trade agreement which was ratified a year later and accords each party the most favoured nation treatment in all matters relating to imports and export trade between them, but the level of trade has remained low.

They have also concluded and ratified an agreement on

economic co-operation which provides for joint ventures in areas of mutual agreement.

Mr. Emenyi proposed ways of improving the movement of goods between the two countries, so as not to lose the competitive edge. He also identified Nigeria's ability to finance trade and promote economic co-operation through three indigenous banks in New York and London.

CSO: 3298/236

CHIAPAS PRESS REPORTS, COMMENTS ON C. AMERICAN IMMIGRATION

Employment of Illegals Discouraged

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 12 Nov 82 pp 14, 15

[Text] Oaxaca, Oax.--In view of the excessive number of Central American illegal aliens entering the country, penalties consisting of 10,000 pesos or 15 days in jail will be imposed on whoever employs illegal immigrants, since according to Mexican immigration law, everyone is obligated to report to the Secretariat of Government the presence of any illegal alien.

The above information was given here by the representative of Migratory Services of the Secretariat of Government, Fernando Palacios Roji, who added that a few days ago agents from that ministry arrested the person in charge of construction work, Pedro Santiago Lopez, for hiring Guatemalan illegal aliens in his area of work.

Later, the official explained that it is not illegal to start proceedings against a person who employs or protects illegal aliens, inasmuch as these measures are contemplated in the law.

Nevertheless, regarding Pedro Santiago Lopez, institutions for the protection of citizens attached to the University of Oaxaca denounced the torture of the arrested man by immigration authorities, which is not in accordance with legal precepts.

This last accusation was denied by the official Palacios Roji, at the same time that he reiterated that the penalties against those who employ illegal aliens will be severe, though always within the law, in order to prevent the continued infiltration of our country by Central Americans.

Government Policy Criticized

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 12 Nov 82 p 5

["By Way of Editorial: Dialog" Column: "Lamps in the Street..."]

[Text] The statements made by the secretary of government, Prof Enrique Olivares Santana, were categorical when he pointed out that the Central

American immigrants who have settled along our southern border and even in various locations in the center of the country will not be deported nor persecuted, and that food, medical assistance, etc., will be provided for them so that they may involve themselves in productive activities, without detriment, of course, to the citizens, and thus dignify their status as refugees, while they are urged to respect our immigration laws.

On the other hand, the representative from Migratory Services, of the same department in the city of Oaxaca, affirmed that strong economic sanctions, and even jail sentences, would be imposed on anyone giving employment to illegal immigrants, in accordance with our laws, as a means of inhibiting the infiltration by Central Americans.

As one can see, these two declarations are contradictory, although of course the overriding one is that by the secretary of government, who is trying thereby to demonstrate once more the hospitality of the Mexican Government, especially toward those countries that are trying to free themselves from the interventionist and capitalist joint ownership by the United States by means of so-called social revolutions, which, as we understand them, only result in the establishment of totalitarian regimes with obvious Marxist-Leninist tendencies, in which the state is everything but the power is in the hands of a few, as is the case of Cuba, where equality is proclaimed but people live without libertinism [as published].

The foreign policy carried out by the government has placed us in serious predicaments, and even some of our problems stem from this. Policies with which probably 90 percent of population disagree, in spite of what is said, simply because the information given on the subject is distorted, a fact that, added to the idiosyncrasy of the Mexican, has rendered us "brightness abroad and darkness at home", without our express consent.

We do not want to get into a controversy over whether we are from the Right, Left or Center, but we are nationalists and for this reason we disagree with the statements made by the secretary of government in relation to the immigrants. That does not mean that we are against the solidarity that our Central American brothers need at this point, but we do believe, in the name of justice, that before trying to solve other peoples' problems we should solve those that concern us, those that hurt us, the more so when in the southern states there are hundreds of peasants who are still asking for a piece of land in order to survive, when more than 500,000 Indians bear their misery and helplessness, and when dozens of communities cry out for water, roads, schools, electricity, etc., in order to share in the development.

Oaxaca and especially Chiapas will be the ones to [feel] the reverses of this paternalism of our foreign policy, because the latter is the gateway to Central America. Already flourishing in Chiapas is the unrest of social disintegration caused by foreign agents who, taking advantage of the misery and ignorance of the inhabitants, have planted in them socialist ideologies that have destroyed equilibrium and provoked anxiety and worry.

We have denounced the attitude of immigrants or refugees who have seized some of the communities in the coastal zone, displacing their true inhabitants and even using force, without the corresponding authorities doing anything to correct this situation; the Lacandona jungle and high region invaded by agitators of various nationalities, encroaching on the land to turn it into laboratories for their wretched purposes, and now, thousands of refugees who will steal what the natives are demanding: food, medicines, work.

These incongruities have made the people ask themselves, "Where are we going? Why this unusual help to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Dominica, etc. when unemployment is increasing in the country because of the economic crisis we are going through? Why not solve our own problems first and then offer help to the rest?"

Most likely everyone knows the answer, but we do believe that everything must change. The turn of the foreign policy must be radical, the more so now that we have to abide by the rules imposed by the International Monetary Fund, which will require, among other things, that we tighten our belts, rationalize public expenditures and stop being, in the eyes of the universe, the champion of the third world.

It is not much to ask....

9907

CSO: 3248/334

LEFT SEES RADICALIZATION OF IMPOVERISHED MIDDLE CLASS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Dec 82 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Article by Nidia Marin]

[Text] Irritated by its inevitable decline toward impoverishment, the historically immutable Mexican middle class is faltering in the face of the economic crisis. The "punch that it is receiving right in the face" carries with it the risk of an increase in antigovernmental feeling without political overtones and there is a possible latent leaning toward leftwing or rightwing extremism.

Leftwing parties stated it that way on acknowledging the responsibility to face the problems arising as a result of the impoverishment of the middle class, and they indicated the course of programmed organization and understanding to avoid falling into fascism, into revolutionary desperation (or into both) or that some social explosion may be used against Mexico's sovereignty.

For the United Socialist Party of Mexico the immediate grave risk is not of political violence, but that with the impoverishment of the working class and the mentioned middle class a "lumpen proletariat" could be produced.

Because on the one hand with "such a brutal" increase in the number of unemployed in the cities, and on the other hand with the decline in the income of middle-class families, who are not accustomed to living badly, the repercussions are channeled toward delinquency, indicates Raul Jardon of the PSU Committee in the Federal District.

And it is the youths who are the first to be affected by that situation, which in their case is associated with the lack of opportunities after completion of their studies. That is, generations of "white-collar wage earners" are produced.

As an indirect phenomenon he commented on the possibility that there may be a strengthening of antigovernment feeling without direction among the middle classes not already polarized (Right or Left) and that may be attracted to radical or ultraradical leftwing or rightwing groups.

Jardon says that it is now more difficult for an armed movement to provide political direction and he considers that "how far the situation could go will depend upon the political parties."

"The challenge for the Left," he adds, "is to offer viable options for the middle class. In this sense reality can help us, because at this time it is evident that the middle class is being displaced not by workers, but by the bourgeoisie."

"There is the need to make them see that not just the government is responsible for what is happening, but basically big business is at fault," he specifies.

According to Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, spokesman for the Popular Socialist Party, "the petty bourgeoisie will have to find itself." He points out that a certain standard of living is demanded for this sector, or it demands it for itself, while its taxes are accumulating and salaries are falling.

In his opinion the dangers of a social mature that could result as a consequence are: fall into fascism or into ultrarevolutionary desperation. And it is precisely the "petty intellectual bourgeoisie" that can bring about both questions "if it persists in demanding a heavy hand for everything."

After indicating that the result will be resentment and delinquency, Ortiz Mendoza said that instead of there being more police there should be a move toward popular participation, since "it is not poverty that is causing the people to despair, but the fact that they are given no real means to escape from it."

The Workers Socialist Party concurs that the overall decline in purchasing power could exceed 60 percent, and as a result the process of proletarianization "will be very strong."

"The middle class, after having been accustomed to a favorable standard of living, will now pay for the crisis with unemployment and scarcity," states Jorge Diez de Sollano, spokesman for the Workers Socialist Party, and he adds: "The budget cuts in the state secretariats are impressive; for example, in the Secretariat of Labor it is almost 90 percent."

In the face of the crisis, states Diez de Sollano, there is a need to strengthen the social organization of production. One is faced with the need for a great effort on the part of the political parties to organize that dissatisfaction.

It is necessary to have a major propaganda campaign and to get the information to the bases of the political organizations, so that these, in turn, may spread the organized response among the nonpolitical sectors.

In this, he says in concluding, the government has a great responsibility, basically through its party, the PRI.

9746

CSO: 3248/391

FEATURES OF FISCAL REFORM OUTLINED BY SILVA HERZOG

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Dec 82 pp 1-A, 12-A

[Text] The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit announced yesterday that the fiscal reform sent to Congress for approval included the establishment of three different rates for the value added tax: 1 of 6 percent for processed foods and patent medicines, a general 15 percent rate, and one of 20 percent for luxury goods. He explained that the greater part of the goods and services that comprise the consumer market basket would still have exemptions from the payment of this tax, and he remarked that the 10 percent surcharge on personal income taxes would be applied in 1983 to taxpayers with annual incomes of more than 5 times the minimum wage.

He also indicated that the projected fiscal reform came close to attaining the goal of taxing all income and would make the inclusion of all dividend income obligatory, along with royalties and all income perceived by government officials, among others; in addition, it provides for the inclusion of all business income.

The agency that Jesus Silva Herzog heads also stated that the increases in prices and government fees would have an unfavorable effect on inflation in the immediate future but would mean a reduction over the medium term because of increases in government revenues, would avoid excessive public debt, and together with a sensible policy of expenditures, would decrease the deficit.

In making greater progress in the fiscal package that was presented along with the income tax bill for 1983, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit has established that the tax reform is aimed at strengthening public finances with "measures that will demand sacrifices but which will also be softened by equitable apportionment of the burden."

This will be achieved through significant increases in collections and the revenues of public sector enterprises, equitable distribution of deductions and credits with the object of placing more burden on the most capable economic groups, and finally higher levels of investment and employment.

The agency commented that the title on the declaration of all income for personal income tax purposes provides for the obligatory inclusion of dividend income (by lumping such items together), royalties, and the declaration of all income of government officials, among others.

It also said the bill sets up measures to eliminate or adjust special bases applicable to income taxes and proposes that firms lump together all their income, "all this with the object of achieving greater justice and equity" in sharing the tax burden."

It explained that it propose to apply an additional 10 percent income tax surcharge to those with annual incomes more than 5 times the minimum wage in 1983.

The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit also ntloed that "considering the deterioration on the workers' earning power, it is proposed to lower personal income tax rates."

Regarding the value added tax (VAT), it recalled that it was decided to set a rate of 10 percent when the levy was first established (which was originally calculated at 12.3 percent). Later, it was decided to establish a zero base rate for foodstuffs, which reduced the indirect tax burden still further."

It added that Mexico had one of the lowest income tax rates in the world, and that now, with the necessity of obtaining additional resources and putting public finances back on a sound footing, "it is proposed to eliminate some exemptions and establish differential rates for the VAT," as noted above.

500,000 Pesos Tax on Imported Automobiles

The agency stated it was proposing to levy an annual tax of 500,000 pesos on owners of imported automobiles and pointed out that administration of tax collection would be improved in order to combat tax evasion; it addition, the new federal tax code will go into effect the first of January.

At the same time the agency stated that tolls on federal roads and bridges would also be varied: higher on weekends and lower in nighttime hours with the object of achieving rational use of the highways and finally, it stated that it was attempting to be realistic in public sector prices and fees.

9015

CSO: 3048/373

BRIEFS

STUDY ON PESO BUYING POWER--From 1976 to December 1982 the real value of the minimum salary did not exceed 100 pesos a day, indicates a study carried out by Jose Ortega Rivera, member of the auxiliary technical office of the National Minimum Wage Commission. The same analysis indicates October as the month of the past 6-year period when workers suffered the most drastic decline in income, with the purchasing power of the minimum wage falling to 60 pesos. In contrast, during the period 1977 through 1982 there occurred the highest real rates of increase in gross domestic product in our history: 8.3 percent in 1978, 9.2 percent in 1979, 8.3 percent in 1980 and 8.1 percent in 1981. Although these figures indicate the creation of more wealth, indicates the study, this wealth was not distributed as it should be, since the economic circumstances of large elements of the population did not improve, for, as was noted, instead of purchasing power increasing, it tended to fall. With the establishment of a minimum wage of 575 pesos a day for 1983 one is only restoring the purchasing power that existed in January 1977. That is, today's 575 pesos are worth 106.4 1977 pesos. Text Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 13 Dec 82 p 27 9746

PSUM MEMBERS SEIZE PROPERTY--Simojovel, Chis.--About 60 Indians, members of the PSUM (Mexican United Socialist Party), seized the Mazantic farm and are holding hostage the man in charge, Luis Anzures, as well as the employees Tayde Sanchez and Cheyto Cabballero, demanding that said farm be handed over to them, since they adduce that the lands belong to them. It was learned that the invaders and abductors took possession of the land and are keeping the victims tied, under the sun, in the new settlement known as Concepcion, not permitting anyone to approach them. It is said that the Indians, incited by professional agitators belonging to the Communist Party, are heavily armed and will not back down from their commitment until the owner of the farm, Manuel Penagos, hands them the corresponding title deeds. Up to now, and in spite of the fact that the constituents of the small parcel have tried to make contact with the judicial authorities to ask for help, nothing has been achieved, since they were informed that only Governor Sabines can give the appropriate orders. In view of this, a confrontation that might have fatal consequences is feared, inasmuch as the owners of small farms have decided to defend their property even at the cost of their own lives. Text [Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 12 Nov 82 p 8] 9907

CHIAPAS: PRI, COCEI VIOLENCE--San Miguel Chimalapa, Oaxaca--One person was killed and three were injured as a result of another clash here a few days ago between members of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and the COCEI [Labor Peasant Student Coalition of the Isthmus]. The clash between the two camps took place when Gaspar Hernandez Chavez, assistant legal advisor of the state, tried to reinstate Indalecio Sanchez Cruz, the DCOCEI mayor, on the municipal council; Sanchez was violently expelled last October 18 by members of the PRI opposed to his administration. Luciano Gutierrez was killed in the clash, and Andres Zarate, who was assuming his post as alderman, was injured, as was Mrs Esperanza Gutierrez, and Palmaro Jimenez Gutierrez. The authorities, headed by the chief of the state Judicial Police, Adolfo Fernando Garrido Parada, reported that the leader of the disturbance was Wilfredo Cruz, who headed the group of PRI protesters that caused the death of Luciano Gutierrez and the injuries to the other persons. [Text] [Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 26 Nov 82 p 11] 9015

CSO: 3248/373

CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER ON POLITICAL PARTIES LAW

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Nov 82 pp 1, 16

[Report on interview with Jose Castillo Osejo, Democratic Conservative Party Leader, by LA PRENSA correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] Conservative leader Jose Castillo Osejo says that the country must be put in order economically, politically and socially. The Political Parties Law? "We hope to see it," he says. We do not believe in a socialist constitution. Bring in Western-type democracy. The Parties Law should be improved before discussion of it is begun in the Council of State, the leader of the Democratic Conservative Party believes. Shortcomings in the government's program.

[LA PRENSA] Mr Castillo Osejo: a special commission was reconvened to analyze the feasibility of a Political Parties Law. What is your opinion about this new development?

[Castillo] We must go into the history of this Political Parties Law a bit. In the first 1980 legislature the Conservative Party introduced a very comprehensive bill to protect and legalize not only the traditional political parties, but the new parties which have arisen in Nicaragua. This bill was shelved. Later the Sandinist Front introduced a bill which was not to the liking of any of the democratic parties, because it did not even indicate what the function of political parties is. That is, it was an incomplete bill, and we consider that it was an extension of the Penal Code, where extensive penalties against parties were listed, but nothing even was said about what the functions of these parties were. As we know, every party is organized for the purpose of acquiring political power.

The Front's bill was shelved, just as was the initiative of the Democratic Conservative Party. Some suggestions were made, and we sent them in, basing ourselves article by article on an amplification which modified the bill of the Sandinist Front. But there were no debates on this subject during the whole 1981 legislative session or now in 1982.

Later the Patriotic Front of the Revolution brings up the idea of setting in motion the Political Parties Law. This idea is incomplete, unfinished, but is going to be taken up in the committee of the Council of State in which

the representative of the Conservative Party is going to take part. As a civilist party, we believe that in order for a country to function it must put its affairs in order.

Castillo Osejo added, "Set in order not only economically and socially, but in political matters too, which are the foundation, the axis around which all the activities and attitudes of a nation revolve."

Political parties arise out of the needs of groups of men who are ideologically related. So these parties have different characteristics, but most of these characteristics are held in common in the case of the usual Western-type democracy. And there we have the social democrats, the social christians, the constitutional liberal movement and the democratic conservatives involved in this idea of making the nation more democratic.

We do not believe in a socialist type constitution, although we constantly hear talk about them. Rather, we believe that Nicaragua's geopolitical situation is of vital importance, and that it is difficult to escape from the orbit of the Western type of democracy.

With this as a basis, we believe that we must talk over the bill, improve it, make revisions and changes in it, before beginning to debate it. The special commission must act in accordance with the thinking of each and every one of those who are involved in the examination of this law. It would be a step forward if the Sandinist Front is really prepared to allow this law to go through, because a great deal is going to depend on it, if the reorganization of this country **is not just a political tactic**. Castillo Osejo stated that there should be a Municipalities Law as a complement to the Political Parties Law, and a Constituent Law, which would then draft the Magna Carta which would govern Nicaraguan political institutions.

Castillo said that we Nicaraguans have been being governed by decrees, that is, 3 years after the triumph of the revolution the country is not governed with a constitution.

"We have a government program with numerous shortcomings, we have a basic statute of rights and guarantees for the Nicaraguans which also has not been respected in its essential core, which is the spirit of the law in itself. With the result that we believe we must take a step forward, and the law could be that step, depending on the kind of law which results," declared Castillo.

The Conservative leader commented that "a short while ago he read some statements by Rafael Cordova Rivas, the member of the government Junta, saying it was the time for definitions. Either the Sandinist Front would go and directly declare the country a "people' socialist" republic, or it would turn to Western-type democracy, but it would not be able to continue in an ambiguous situation. Ambiguity brings uncertainty, and in its turn, failure in the development of the country.

He went on to say, "In view of this prospect, the Conservation Party believes that it must be represented on the Special Commission, and if the latter

satisfies the demands of the parties, it would be appropriate to debate the law."

The Conservative leader expressed some misgivings about the implementation of the Political Parties Law, saying that discussion of the project before the Council of State "depends on how credible it is, or whether it really will be put into practice and not turn out to be nothing more than a tactic arising from a political crisis. This credibility is going to make a great difference in the implementation of the law if they are really thinking of setting the country in order."

Castillo thought that this is not the time for improvisation in the management of government affairs because "Improvisation causes a great deal of anxiety among the people, the parties, and the institutions, which when the government's attitudes lack credibility naturally provokes economic as well as social and political setbacks."

[LA PRENSA] Will the Democratic Conservative Party take back some elements of the proposed Political Parties Law which it publicized last year in order to make contributions through its delegate to the Special Commission?

[Castillo] The broadest proposal that has been presented is the one of the Democratic Conservative Party, which did not even get as far as the committee at that time. The party has been fighting to put matters in order so as to end this crisis and this state of war which the country has been in since 1979. We have not been able to establish a real peace, a total unification of the nation's forces.

[LA PRENSA] Going on to the implementation of the Political Parties Law, what other law do you believe should be put into effect within the framework of the political and social ordering of the country?

[Castillo] Without any question, a Constituent Law, because a political constitution is the foundation on which a country is completely set in order. No country can exist without a constitution. A man must know which law protects him, which law punishes him, which one gives him his rights and tells him his duties. The Constituent Law would logically give us the Constitution of the Republic, which is the Magna Carta.

Also we can not overlook--after we have the Political Parties Law, and when they are truly able to operate freely--in chronological order: a Municipalities Law, and an Electoral Law, because a Parties Law is worthless if there is no postponement of them later on.

Castillo thinks that the free functioning of political parties will also be decided by the state of emergency which the country is in.

Regarding this he says, "So that they may be able to really function, either arrange a suspension of the Emergency Law; or a special law for the political parties may be set up so that they will be able to operate freely. A law for political parties would be worthless if they are not going to be able

to operate within the framework of the law, and if there is going to be a ban of on their holding political rallies, national gatherings or conventions, and especially on the political proselytizing that is so necessary for the strengthening of the parties themselves."

[LA PRENSA] There is some thought in Nicaraguan political circles that if the laws of parties, of elections, and the law of municipalities are passed, all those manifestations of protest and dissent would become a "weapon" against the revolutionary process, which might even be reflected in hostile acts. How will these laws benefit the social, political and economic environment?

[Castillo] We have believed, and we have made this known--not only in Nicaragua, where it has not been widely circulated because of the state of emergency--but internationally, that there is no use for us to try to solve foreign problems if we do not solve domestic problems, which are the ones which cause the greatest anxiety.

He was asked: What is the pretext used now by the groups abroad who are fighting against the revolutionary process: He immediately answered: "They say that Nicaragua is setting up a totalitarian regime of a Marxist-Leninist type. This is the reason they give in taking positions which go beyond the civilist and pacifist route.

If we put the country in order, with a Political Parties Law, an Electoral Law, and the other laws, in true freedom; if there is unrestricted freedom of the press, as the Basic Statute and the 1979 Program of Government stipulate; if there is freedom to organize meetings, then the pretext used abroad naturally falls through. The country begins to set itself in order, and moves away from the characteristics which have branded it as a Marxist-Leninist project," concluded Castillo Osejo.

8131

CSO: 3248/382

PASTORA RULES OUT MILITARY ACTION IN SHORT TERM

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Dec 82 ENFOQUE Supplement p 37

[Article by Edgar Fonseca]

[Text] Guerrilla commander Eden Pastora Gomez denied that he is seeking to increase military action in the short term against the regime headed by the nine leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua.

"In the short term I cannot promise anything more than a political struggle," emphasized Pastora, who is now the head of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), an organization opposed to Sandinism in which he is joined by Alfonso Robelo Brooklyn Rivera and Fernando Chamorro.

"We are not going to start any military action. We are going to exhaust all resources, all political possibilities, before we accept the challenge to violence being made daily by the National Directorate (Sandinist)," he stressed.

Openly opposed to the "nine commanders" since 15 April, when he promised in San Jose that he would go and drag them at gunpoint from their mansions in Managua, Pastora, who is 46 years old, was cautious about his words.

His greatest concern is that his sojourn in our country will not be hindered, since he was expelled on 22 May and returned under cover on 8 September.

Since that time he has stayed away from the press, and only on sporadic occasions has he given interviews to foreign journalists.

Thursday, in a small room dominated by portraits of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino, who inspired the Nicaraguan revolution, and Gen Omar Torrijos, the Panamanian leader who died in July, 1981, he made some statements.

As a background, there was a modern weapon for his personal protection and two flags: the blue and white Nicaraguan flag and the red and black flag of the Sandinist Revolutionary Front (FRS), the groups with which he took his first steps in the anti-Somozist guerrilla war in the 1950's.

Pastora, who has been silent since September--at least locally--carried on a conversation interrupted by constant telephone and radio calls and visits

from collaborators. One can see that he has lost weight. His day, he says, runs from 6 am to midnight and even to 1 am. He insists on describing his actions within a political framework.

Political Problem

"The problem in Nicaragua is no longer one of weapons. The problem is political," he warns. He mentions the leaders and adds: "They can acquire more and more weapons, but they will not have anyone to use them. The same thing is going to happen to the National Directorate that happened to Somoza: the problem will not be lack of weapons, but rather lack of men. The great unpopularity of the Directorate because of its totalitarian positions is turning it into an armed minority that will be unable to respond to an internal situation of violence, resentment and frustration at being betrayed."

He expressed his regret about that and about what he described as the result of errors in United States policy and specifically that of President Ronald Reagan, with its radical attitude toward the Nicaraguan process.

"Reagan's threats and the Somozist Guard are consolidating the National Directorate in power and in its errors," he explained. According to Pastora, the totalitarian positions of the leaders, in turn, in a dialectic of extremes, justify the American attitude in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Therefore, in view of these extremes, he emphasized the choice represented, according to him, by his movement, which favors a democratic, Sandinist and anti-imperialist revolutionary model. In this specific regard Pastora emphasizes that he is anti-imperialist in every sense and he condemns the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as well as American intervention in the Vietnam war in the 1960's. To resentment and frustration against the leaders for their betrayal, Pastora adds the serious economic crisis confronting Nicaragua.

"Two and a half million Nicaraguans are beginning to be concerned about the repression. However, there is no reason to despair. A month ago the students demonstrated their concern. The same thing happened at Monimbo. The popular sectors are beginning to worry about the course of the revolution and the Directorate's policy, which is impoverishing them," he said.

"Now the people, the masses, are beginning to feel the effects of the closing of businesses that the Directorate nationalized and which it has been unable to make productive or to maintain, and now there is unemployment as well," he emphasized.

I am speaking of the poor, margined sectors," he said. "They are the ones that fight and go out into the streets to die. Because the Pellas, Deshons, Sacasas, Debayles and Chamorros--these people do not fight..."

Emphasizing these factors, Pastora is confident that his option will be the solution for the Nicaraguan people.

He explained that on the one side there is the totalitarian position of the Directorate, and on the other, the Somozist groups organized in Honduras, who favor a return to the past.

"We are a third choice. It would be sad if the people in Nicaragua saw only the Guard or the Directorate," he emphasized.

For this reason he approved of the denunciation of the campaign to discredit him undertaken by the Sandinist Directorate.

Pastora and the CIA

According to Pastora, the leaders have tried to make him appear to be an ally of the Somozist Guard. "But the Nicaraguan people see that I am not part of the Guard, that I am not manipulated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and that I maintain vertical conduct as a Sandinist revolutionary," he declared. "To that extent," he added, "the Nicaraguan people say that that is the solution. Neither the extreme Right nor the extreme Left."

However, he admits that his activities are hindered as long as thousands of Somozist guardsmen remain active on the Honduran border carrying out constant harassment raids.

He expressed the opinion that although they do not have the capacity to sustain an open, prolonged war, due to the Sandinists' military power, the Somozist commandos are causing the Nicaraguan people, manipulated by Cuban experts, to rally around the nine-man Directorate.

"If the Guard were not there, the people would have already risen up in arms. What is preventing them from rising up against the Directorate is the constant threat from the past," he emphasized.

"The situation is complex. The "Guard" is a dirty word for the Nicaraguan people: persecution, murder, prison, torture, genocide. So, for those people, to go back to the past--never," he said.

However, he emphasized the political struggle his movement is carrying on internally, which is consolidating a national resistance front. According to him it is in an advanced stage of organization, but he did not give any further details.

Pastora recalled that his efforts to strengthen political action included Gen Gustavo Alvarez, chief of the Armed Forces in Honduras.

This happened in November, and Alvarez's condition for supporting him was that he cooperate with the Somozist groups; Pastora did not agree with that, and therefore his plan failed.

He refrained from revealing the sources of his financing and mentioned the rumors linking him to the CIA with the following statement: "If the CIA

gave me money, the first thing I would do would be to establish myself on the borders of Honduras and Costa Rica, and in 7 months I would be in Managua. The CIA has not made any proposals to me, nor has the KGB. The only ones who make suggestions are my comrades and my people..."

However, he regrets that he does not have the "political space" in which to develop his mission. In the case of our own country, he said he is not even permitted to have an armed man in a camp, because he would be arrested.

He attacked groups which, like Democratic Coordination--made up of political parties and union organizations--are lending themselves to a political pseudo-opening by the Sandinist Front within Nicaragua.

"They have dialogues with the Directorate, and the people know nothing about it. They break off the talks and the people are unaware of it. They are not a choice. The proof is that no one follows them," he said, describing them as "neozancudos," comparing them with groups which in the past pretended to oppose the Somoza regime.

Pastora appears hopeful that as time passes the picture will become clearer and more defined for the Nicaraguan people and militias.

Definition

Even with respect to the approximately 250,000 persons in the Sandinist military and paramilitary forces, he believes the time will come when they will have to choose between dying to defend either Tomas Borge or democracy.

It will be a stage, without fixing any dates, in which the question will be put to the test, as he himself asked: Who will die defending communism, and who defending true Sandinism?

He believes that more than half of the figure mentioned would support him in the battle that is developing: "More than half are not Marxist-Leninist; more than half are not communists..." he said.

In addition, Pastora emphasized that organizations like the Socialist International (SI)--a delegation of which was on an observation mission in Nicaragua and Costa Rica a few days ago--are not taking a deeply critical position with regard to the deviations of the Sandinist leaders "for fear of being identified or agreeing with Reagan. We told them, support us. This is a third choice. Neither Washington nor Moscow," he asserted.

At the moment there was no reply because the members of the commission were in the process of gathering information.

Concerning his situation in Costa Rica, he sees it within a framework of respect for the laws and avoiding problems for our country in its international commitments.

With regard to the strained relations between Managua and San Jose, he believes that President Luis Alberto Monge had no other choice.

"There it is, thesis and antithesis: Costa Rican democracy against communist dictatorship, with its totalitarian system, the result of the weapons of military power," he said.

He warned of the real danger to our system from the leaders, and he even detailed a "serious flow" of weapons that have been coming in through Upala for sectors that do not support the government--antidemocratic, as he described them.

Pastora is confident that even if it costs him his life, his goals will be achieved. He believes that probably, because he has always been described as a violent man of action and tactics, no one thinks of him as strategically astute, analytical, serene and calm, awaiting the ideal moment, he remarked. "I cannot become a skirmisher or go around starting stupid battles," he said, as he again described as "lies" those rumors that speak of imminent action by him against the "nine." "Either I lead a national war, or I lead nothing..," he concluded.

8735

CSO: 3248/378

SWEDISH OFFICIAL, NICARAGUAN LEADERS DISCUSS AID PROGRAM

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 19 Dec 82 p 21

[Article by Bengt Albons: "Where Is Our Aid Going? Sweden's Hunt for Gold in the Mountains of Nicaragua"]

[Text] This year every Swede has contributed 750 kronor to the foreign aid funds. In all Sweden is giving 6.23 billion kronor in foreign aid this budget year.

Is the money being used properly? How does foreign aid work? DAGENS NYHETER will give answers to these questions in a series of reports from Nicaragua, Tanzania, Kenya and Laos. In conclusion, Anders Forsse, the head of SIDA [Swedish International Development Authority], the foreign aid organization, will give his view on the debate concerning foreign aid.

Nicaragua, Dec 82--High up in the beautiful mountains of Nicaragua, Swedish geologists are busin hunting for gold. That does not sound very romantic, but in actuality it has nothing to do with gold rush adventurers searching for the perfect nugget.

What is involved is Swedish aid to a developing country which needs gold to strengthen its finances.

Aid Money

The Swedes do not find any ordinary gold--at least not so that it can be seen with the naked eye. The Geologists and their Nicaraguan helpers drill, survey and take samples in a bedrock which has kept the gold in storage for something like 15 million years.

And it is hidden so well that there are no more than 5, 6 or 10 grams of gold, at themost, in each ton of rock.

But it is worth while to pick out the grams of gold that are there. People have known that for many hundreds of years. And sometimes there are small, one-man enterprises which grind up the gold ore in ancient,

water-powered mills. The larger mines closed up because of Nicaragua's revolution three years ago.

The foreign enterprises--chiefly North American--packed up their plans and blueprints and went home.

Experts

With the help of Swedish experts, two mines have gotten back into operation again in El Limon and La Libertad ("lemon" and "freedom").

"We are primarily engaged now in searching for mines containing enough gold to make it worth-while to keep them in operation, but we also are making more profound studies in order to show that ore justifying more protracted exploitation is here," Bo Lundberg, the head of the Swedish project, says.

Along with eleven other geologists and technicians, Bo Lundberg was sent out by Svenska Geologiska AB in Lulea, a state enterprise which had received a consultation assignment from the foreign aid organization SIDA and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Mines.

The gold project is to continue for a few years, but the management of SIDA is not in complete agreement. Riksdag member Sture Korpas (Center Party) has registered his disapproval, stating that he does not think that gold "increases the well-being of mankind."

Revolutionary Nicaragua, which has a shortage of foreign currency for imports and improving the well-being of its population, nevertheless places great importance on the gold project. So does SIDA, which puts more money into the extraction of gold--over 40 million kronor from now until 1984--than into any other project in Nicaragua.

At the Swedish Embassy in Nicaragua, Helena Odmark, who has a great deal of experience with foreign aid work, says that the gold project and a "Swedish" tax project in the capital city of Managua are prime examples of how foreign aid can function.

Foreign Aid

Yes, opinion regarding Swedish aid to Nicaragua is favorable, through and through, both among Swedes and Nicaraguans.

No complaining voices were raised in any of the many conversations about Swedish aid I had in Nicaragua, and that is very unusual where Swedish aid is concerned.

The Swedes praise the Nicaraguans for their efficiency, openness, flexibility and willingness to cooperate, for a common desire to change and develop their country after long years of dictatorship and for having done away with corruption--an idea to make the mind reel in almost all the other Latin American countries.

The Nicaraguans also praise Sweden and the Swedes for having come forward quickly with aid as soon as the revolution was carried out in the summer of 1979 and for persisting with their aid efforts now that "the revolution is beginning to get old." The Swedes are also praised for their concentration on obtaining results, their hard work, their professional knowledge and their enthusiasm.

"And," says Mariano Gajardo, at the Ministry of Mines, "they are not disdainful. They don't look down on us the way many other foreign aid workers do."

"Yes," Bo Lundberg, the head of the gold project, says, "they are not used to having experts go out and do ordinary dirty work. I can say the same thing about the Nicaraguans. There is a shortage of trained people, but the ones we are engaged in training are not afraid to dig in. They are not like experts in other countries where I have worked--afraid to get their hands dirty."

Prestige

"Furthermore, one does not see any personal ambition here--no struggle for power and prestige such as one encounters in so many other places in the world," Bo Lundberg says.

He thinks it is easier to work in Nicaragua than in Sweden because there is always someone on hand who can solve problems. Furthermore, there are not as many regulations as in Sweden, he says. Per Hansen, the project leader for Statskonsult, which is engaged in introducing a new tax system based on personal numbers, agrees with Lundberg.

It is believed that the new tax system will give Nicaragua a higher income from taxes from the few who earn enough that they have to pay taxes. Four Swedes are developing the system and, at the same time, they are training Nicaraguans who are to take over the whole thing in 1984.

"Here in Nicaragua, opinion is not tied down to old traditions. If necessary, opinion moves in quickly and changes the laws to get them to work in accordance with actual needs. There is a great willingness to cooperate on all levels here and a great deal of confidence in us," Per Hansen says. Per Hansen stresses the fact that Statskonsult has had fewer delays in Nicaragua than is usual with projects in Sweden. The only criticism to be heard from the foreign aid organization, SIDA, is criticism of the Nicaraguan forest project. SIDA thinks that the Ministry of Forestry has not succeeded in making full use of the two Swedish experts who are working there.

Deficiencies

The Ministry of Forestry has been deficient where efficiency is concerned, SIDA thinks. That is true of the purchasing and using of machines and vehicles which are paid for with Swedish aid money. Some trucks are stand-

ing still because of poor maintenance work, and a saw blade grinding machine has been moved aside in the expectation that somebody would be able to take care of it.

SIDA wants to invest a little more than 27 million kronor in Nicaragua's forests between now and 1984. Laboratories and seed plants are being built with Swedish money, a forest ranger school with five Swedish teachers is to be started up and Swedish experts are evaluating forest resources.

Up to the present, they have found that there are not as many valuable forests as the Nicaraguans thought but that afforestation can be profitable.

The Swedes are hesitant about taking part in the evaluation of the forests in northern Nicaragua. It is dangerous for Swedish experts to go into the woods where there are armed "counterrevolutionaries"--guerrilla groups which want to overthrow the revolutionary government.

However, the head of the Ministry of Forestry, Wladimir Perez, said, in talking with DAGENS NYHETER, that he can guarantee the Swedes safety even in the north.

Hopes

Like all other Nicaraguan leaders and politicians, Perez hopes that Swedish aid to Nicaragua will increase now that the Social Democrats have taken over the government again. They hope for a great deal from "Comrade Palme," whom they describe as an old friend of Nicaragua and its revolution. Olof Palme is a member of the Socialist International's Defense Committee for the Nicaraguan Revolution.

"I do not want to say that the former government's aid was not large, but we naturally identify more with Olof Palme and we hope that the new government will increase the assistance from 50 million kronor this year to 80 million next year."

That is what Sergio Ramirez says. He is a member of the three-man government junta which collectively constitutes Nicaragua's highest leadership body.

Sergio Ramirez hopes that Nicaragua will get special treatment and become a country which is included in Sweden's foreign aid program. In practice, Nicaragua is already included in that program and SIDA is planning to open a foreign aid office in Managua--that also is something Nicaragua wants.

Investment

It is also probable that the Social Democrats will increase the appropriation for Nicaragua. Even last year the Social Democrats proposed assistance of 75 million kronor. It is too early to say how high the aid will be in the next budget year. However, it is clear that Nicaragua,

with 2.5 million inhabitants, is the only country in Latin America which will remain a target for Swedish aid.

The original Swedish plan to give assistance only for a short time--a few years--has been abandoned in favor of a long-term investment.

Lisbeth Is Working for the Revolution

Lisbeth Olsson is working in Nicaragua because she supports the revolution. She is 29 years old and is a midwife from Hassleholm.

She makes use of her training to help the 1,700 inhabitants of Yali, a small town in northern Nicaragua.

She has worked there and in the city of Jonitega for 2 years now for a salary of not quite 3,000 kronor a month. She is far away from Sweden there. Mail takes a month and she is far from welfare and pleasure.

"It is obvious that one is a bit isolated and does not get much in the way of stimulation," Lisbeth says, "but I am willing to sacrifice a little for Nicaragua. I want to do everything I can for this country."

"Why?" she was asked.

"Because there is such an obvious need for assistance here.

And so I want to live out in the country and not stay in the capital city of Managua, for I want to see what it is like for the people.

"Furthermore," Lisbeth says, "it is important to support Nicaragua. For it is precisely that here, with the revolution, which has provided an important change. Nicaragua constitutes an example and a hope for all of Latin America, and particularly for Central America, which is threatened by the United States."

Security

Lisbeth Olsson has security and peace in the town of Yali, being accepted and appreciated by the villagers she helps with births, individual health checkups and vaccinations. What she likes best to do is to ride out to small villages in the mountains and vaccinate children as a part of the vaccination campaign which is now going on throughout the country.

"And it is so beautiful in Yali. It is a wonderful town with green, velvety hillocks, like a town in a fairy story," she says.

Lisbeth and 19 other Swedes came to Nicaragua as volunteer aid workers, sent out by the independent organization called Utbildning for Bistandsverksamhet (UBV--Training for Aid Activity).

The UBV came into existence in the late '60's as a reaction against the official Swedish foreign aid policy. Now quite a large part of its

activities are financed by grants from SIDA.

"At times the fact that people take such a favorable view of Nicaragua can be a problem," says the UBV's coordinator in Nicaragua, Sonny Ostberg, "for the actual situation does not always correspond to the expectations of those who come here."

Peace Corps

"But there is also a real basis for romanticizing," he says. "One can see that things are happening and that the country is moving forward. There is tremendous activity here. We escape from the traditional frustration connected with foreign aid, where nothing happens and the work is felt to be meaningless," Sonny Ostberg thinks.

Some twenty additional Swedish volunteer workers are to come to Nicaragua next year in the framework of a newly-formed Swedish peace corps which is called Svensk Volontar Samverkan [Swedish Volunteer Cooperation].

This is an organization which is being formed as a result of a resolution by the Riksdag, but which is run by the Political Youth Federation, solidarity groups and church organizations. Furthermore, Nicaragua is getting support from solidarity groups, Social Democratic worker communes and trade union organizations. They collect money for smaller projects-- schools and hospitals.

It can be said that Nicaragua, at the beginning of the 1980's, is following Vietnam as the pet of the Swedish left.

Victory After the Popular Uprising

The Nicaraguan revolution is a little more than 3 years old now. It was victorious after an armed revolution and popular uprising against the dictator Anastasio Somoza. Now the country is governed by the commanders dressed in uniforms who led, and are still leading, the Sandinist group known as the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front).

Faced with the threat of counterrevolution and pressure from outside-- chiefly from the United States and the bordering country of Honduras--a state of emergency exists throughout the entire country and a state of mobilization exists in the northern provinces. Law has been superseded by decree. The press, radio and TV are censored. Strikes are prohibited. Nevertheless, there is no one who will characterize Nicaragua as a communist dictatorship, and least of all the rulers themselves. They claim to have a pluralistic society with free enterprise.

The country is functioning that way, too, in part. Free enterprise dominates the economy and views can be expressed freely, to a limited extent, as long as they do not threaten the Sandinists' power.

An election has been promised in 1985; the opposition wants it sooner.

This country's most important opposition leader, Alfonso Robelo, has gone to Costa Rica in exile in protest against what he describes as a dictatorship. He has allied himself there with the revolution's hero, "Commandante Cero" (Commander Zero)--Eden Pastora--who calls his former comrades in the Sandinista movement Stalinists and a new upper class. If one judges by the close relations between Nicaragua and Cuba and the Soviet Union, with three days of mourning after Brezhnev's death, for example, Nicaragua is on its way into the communist bloc. But Sandinista leaders say they are free of alliances.

The purpose of Swedish aid to Nicaragua is to contribute to the country's national and economic independence and to keeping a democratic development going during a period when the country is exposed to threats from outside.

In response to a question as to whether use of the phrase "democratic development" is not a condition imposed by Sweden for granting aid, Sergio Ramirez, one of the three members of the country's highest body, the governing junta, replied: "Sweden has never said what kind of democracy we are to have. It is our opinion that Swedish aid is unconditional."

He says that his government is not striving for a parliamentary democracy of the kind that exists in Sweden.

The leader of the opposition's cooperation organization--the Democratic Coordinator--and spokesman for the Nicaraguan Christian Social Party at the same time, Adan Fletes, describes the regime as "nondemocratic with dictatorial tendencies.

"If there is a free election, they will lose. Therefore they want to introduce a law which forbids campaigning for power in this country by opposition parties," Fletes says.

The "Permanent Committee for Human Rights" says that at least 350 people have been arrested for political reasons since 15 March and that about 250 political prisoners are being kept in various prisons.

A spokesman for the committee says that the prisoners are mistreated and in some cases are tortured, that their rations are insufficient and that they do not have a right to counsel and visits by family members.

Junta member Sergio Ramirez replies to this criticism that the Committee for Human Rights is hostile to the government and the revolution and that the committee's founders are now living in exile and working for the counter-revolution.

"The fact that the committee is allowed to operate is proof that we have democracy in Nicaragua," he says.

In a communication dated October, SIDA told the Swedish government that democratic freedom and democratic rights are granted relatively well in Nicaragua.

SIDA said that in drawing a comparison with many other countries that are included in Sweden's foreign aid program and from a Latin American point of view.

At the same time, SIDA mentioned two examples of "important curtailment of democratic freedom and democratic rights"--specifically, the state of emergency with a ban on the holding of meetings and the forcible transporting of 8,000 Miskito Indians at the beginning of the year.

9266

CSO: 3650/78

BRIEFS

DOCTORS PROHIBITED FROM LEAVING--Matagalpa, Nicaragua--The military has forbidden doctors and other local intellectual sectors to leave this city, alleging security and emergency reasons, but the real fear is that many intellectuals have escaped to join the armed struggle that is developing against the Sandinist leaders. The same is true in Esteli, where the implementation goes beyond humiliation of a people wallowing in poverty, a sad circumstance made even more atrocious by the conduct of the military, which has unleashed its arrogance against a defenseless people who repudiate international communism. Individual guarantees are at the mercy of the soldiers, who allege a state of siege in the abovementioned cities. The youth are getting the worst of the repression in those communities, being practically dragged to the recruiting centers and then being thrown like cannon fodder to the front of the struggle. Inhabitants of Matagalpa and Esteli are experiencing times of horror, not only because of the military presence in the streets, but also because of the conduct of the Sandinist soldiers, who apparently have instructions to frighten the unarmed people who can no longer stand the misery brought about by the communist system. The effects of this situation can be observed in all sectors of economic activity. For example, the coffee beans are falling, overripe, from the trees, because no one wants to work in the midst of the heavy fighting that is taking place with a view to shaking off the communist yoke. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Dec 82 p 24] 8735

CSO: 3248/378

SIMMONDS COMMENTS ON ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE, NEVIS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 6 Dec 82 p 7

[Text] ST. JOHN'S, Antigua — Premier Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, has left here for constitutional talks on the future of St. Kitts-Nevis, opening tomorrow in London, saying that he is optimistic they would go smoothly and that the twin-island state would become independent as planned next summer.

Simmonds, who is heading his government's eight-member delegation, said the major issues to be discussed at the talks, to be chaired by British Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Cranley Onslow, will be the setting of a date for independence and the finalising of the constitution.

"We have had full public discussion on the issues at home and they have been properly ventilated", he said, "but although there have been some differences on some points, the consensus of political opinion in the state has been that all parties are for independence and for independence soon. Therefore, I am pretty optimistic that the talks will go smoothly."

He added: "I expect the opposition will make their presentation, and no doubt, they will have issues that they will want to raise, but as far as the government is concerned, we are going with an agreed position, a position that has been arrived at after discussion, negotiation and consultation between the People's Action Movement (PAM) and the Nevis Reformation Party (which make up the coalition government), and having arrived at the position, we then presented it to the people and allowed for public discussion."

"We then refined those proposals and had them passed in the House of Assembly."

Therefore, I say that the government has done its groundwork and the preparation has been thorough", Simmonds said.

The premier said that the problems which surfaced during the discussions on independence between the opposition, which has insisted on general elections before independence, and the government, have now been settled and he felt that there would not be any major problems during the talks in London.

"I believe that we have clarified most of these points, but I presume that if we have a full opposition team at the talks, it is not inconceivable that they may have issues that they may want to raise, and I will not want to preempt their presentation. But whatever problems might crop

up during the talks, I think my team is fully prepared to handle them," Dr. Simmonds said.

He stated that to make the public aware of the issues at stake, his government had held a total of 21 meetings in every constituency in the country.

"My colleagues in Nevis, they took care of the Nevis side of things, and they had their meetings so that in every constituency, the people had an opportunity to have an input and my government kept notes of all the questions asked, the points raised and the comments made, so that we can properly evaluate those questions and comments and in some cases, we were able to make adjustments because they fell into the overall constitutional approach that we have decided to take", he said.

Simmonds said that, for example, there was a strong lobby from the women and his government took proper note of that and made the necessary amendments to its proposals.

"In fact, I think there was every opportunity for a full participation in these discussions at

all levels of the society", he said.

On the question of Nevis electing its own assembly as provided in the draft constitution, Simmonds said that as far back as 1967, when the country changed from pure colonial status to associated statehood, Nevis got a local council and received certain administrative and legislative provisions.

"So that in the change which affected the whole state, there was a special provision for Nevis and for Anguilla at the time, so they could also feel that there was constitutional advancement for them within their own powers," he noted.

Simmonds added: "We were then prepared to move from associate statehood to independence, and there was no provision for the impact to be felt in Nevis."

"Our proposals make such provision, and it is my government's feeling that if the whole state is going to move forward, and if we had a situation where the local government in Nevis is improved and was instituted in the first constitutional advancement, then it is only logical and reasonable that this constitutional advancement should provide an even further upgrading of the legislative, executive and administrative authority of the people in Nevis," he said.

Simmonds said: "We see nothing wrong or unreasonable with that and in fact, we think that this provides a proper formula for the continued growth of the state."

On the issue of the Nevis move to secede, Simmonds said that at the last talks on independence in November 1979, it was decided that independence would come in 1980.

Simmonds said a decision was taken that 18 months after independence there would be a referendum and Nevis would have an opportunity to secede if it wanted (to). (CANA-Reuter)

SIMMONDS DENIES KEEPING BRYANT AWAY FROM LONDON TALKS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Dec 82 p 3

[Text]

ST. JOHN'S Antigua, Sunday (CANA) — St. Kitts-Nevis Premier, Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, has dismissed suggestions that his Government may be behind opposition politician Fitzroy Bryant's inability to leave the state to take part in next week's constitutional talks in London on Independence for the state.

Mr. Bryant, chairman of the opposition Labour Party, has been unable to join five other colleagues, including Opposition Leader, ex-Premier Lee Moore, in London, because he could not get a tax clearance certificate.

Earlier this week, the St. Kitts-Nevis High Court ordered the immediate return of his passport, surrendered as a condition of his bail after he was arrested last September

and charged with incitement to violence. He was released on EC\$10 00 bail.

According to Dr. Simmonds, who was in transit here on his way to London, "The magistrate set the terms of bail and this has nothing to do with Government. We recognise that this is a normal form of court procedure, and now, subsequently, these terms of bail have been varied by the judge in Chambers, so

that Mr. Bryant's passport has been returned to him."

"My further understanding is that Mr. Bryant has further run afoul of the law, in the sense that he has failed to secure a tax clearance, because he is in default to the Inland Revenue Department. I don't think this again has to do with government pressure," Dr. Simmonds said.

CSO: 3298/237

OPPOSITION LEADER REACTS TO CANCELLATION OF TV INTERVIEW

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Dec 82 p 3

[Text] KINGSTOWN St Vincent Thursday (CANA) — St. Vincent and the Grenadines Opposition Leader James Mitchell, has accused the government of "a denial of Press freedom" and warned Caribbean people to guard against creeping dictatorship. He was reacting to a decision on Tuesday by the state-owned National Commercial Bank to withdraw sponsorship of a local television programme after it had learnt that Mr. Mitchell was to have been interviewed.

Responsibility for the decision was taken by acting Prime Minister Hudson Tannis — acting chairman of the bank — because he said he was not aware of the contents of the programme. He said he did not want to compromise the bank nor himself in a programme, the contents of which he knew nothing about.

Mr. Mitchell said he was not surprised that Mr. Tannis had effectively blocked his presentation on television.

"That kind of behaviour is quite consistent with what we know has been going on in St. Vincent for some time. Normally, the Opposition doesn't have time on the radio and there is the quiet pressure which is being put all the time on our national newspaper, the Vincentian, starving it of government advertisements," Mr. Mitchell said.

He said he was at a loss to understand how the St. Vincent Government could be so self-righteous in its criticism of Press freedom in Grenada, when it was guilty of the same sin.

Mr. Mitchell expressed fears over the erosion of the basic tenets and principles of democracy in the region.

He said: "We can only realise that we have to continue the struggle for our human rights — Press freedom being one of them, — and if we are not vigilant, dictatorship in the Caribbean will continue to creep up on us."

CSO: 3298/237

BRIEFS

CATO DISABILITY--Kingstown, St. Vincent--Prime Minister Milton Cato is suffering from a back problem and until the condition improves, Hudson Tannis will serve as acting prime minister, the government announced. A government statement said Cato was undergoing medical treatment for a slipped disc and that he would return to his regular duties as soon as possible. Cato also turned over his post of finance minister to Tannis, the government's foreign minister. The government hinted three weeks ago the prime minister had a health problem when it was announced Cato would not attend the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit in Jamaica November 16 to 18. At the time, the government said Cato was "indisposed." This news release was the first official statement related to Cato's health. Cato has been the government leader since 1974. He became prime minister when St. Vincent and the Grenadines became independent of England in 1979. He was named premier in 1974. At that time, the island was a British Association State. (AP) [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 2 Dec 82 p 7]

FRG, JAMAICIAN ENVOY VISITS--Kingstown St. Vincent Thursday (CANA)--West Germany's non-resident Ambassador to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica's High Commissioner designate are now on official visits, the Government Information Service (GIS) has reported. The GIS said that Ambassador Karl Heinz Rouette of West Germany and Jamaican Ellen Bogle are scheduled to pay courtesy calls on Governor-General Sir Sydney Gun-Munro and hold discussions with acting Prime Minister Hudson Tannis, and President of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce (CIC) Mr. McNeil Trotman. In addition the West German diplomat is to formally hand over an ambulance to government, an independence gift to this country. He is also to meet and hold discussions with the manager of the island's Development Corporation (DEVOC) Castine Quashie. The Jamaican diplomat will be holding discussions on protocol with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here before presenting her credentials to the acting Prime Minister. She is also to meet with the president of the St. Vincent National Council of Women Erica McIntosh and visit the St. Vincent School of Nursing. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Dec 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/237

ONR OFFICIAL ASSESSES PROGRESS OF PNM GOVERNMENT

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 5 Dec 82 p 12

[Article by Clive Pantin, 1st Vice Chairman of the ONR]

[Text]

ONE year has passed since the PNM was given a solid mandate by the population to rule this country for another five years. Twelve months ago, the ONR also made a bid, albeit unsuccessful, to see if it could make a better hand of guiding the fortunes of our people.

It is significant that after the election, P.M. George Chambers called for a healing of wounds and a unification of our people. I wish to congratulate him on adopting several important areas specified in the ONR manifesto and which we said could work.

(1) DECENTRALISATION

"To have effective people participation there must be a decentralisation of the massive bureaucracy and the centralisation of Government." (Page 13, ONR manifesto.) One has only to look at the tremendous ease with which we can now get a driving permit in POS because of decentralisation to realise the wisdom of the ONR recommendation. Only, the Government did not go far enough. Had the ONR gained the right to rule, this decentralisation would have been found in the payment of subsidies to farmers, acquiring birth certificates, etc.

The ONR made it clear that under its administration, "the functions and responsibilities of centralised bodies providing critical services will be delegated to the relevant local authorities, monitored by the people in the community or region and responsible to these people." (Page 40, ONR manifesto.)

Unfortunately, the present Government could go no further than driving permits in its

efforts to decentralise and so the people, especially those in rural areas, remain frustrated and demoralised.

(2) HOUSES

Recently, the Minister for Housing and Resettlement announced that Government would be more concerned in the provision of land for people permitting them to put up their own buildings. We congratulate them on reading our manifesto carefully on this.

Here is what this section of the manifesto says:

"The planned government projects have all failed because of over-centralisation and

mismanagement. The ONR, in its thrust for decentralisation and efficiency (and thus cost reduction), will be implementing the following programmes to provide each and every family with homes:

PRIVATE HOUSING

The government as the largest land owner will designate areas for private housing.

The government will be responsible for: the provision of the basic infrastructure, i.e., roads, drains, sewage disposal, lights, ect. the design of a variety of houses to be built in these areas.

Families who do not now own a house will be allowed to buy lots in these areas the family may choose to use one of the units designed by the Government or design its own home within the parameters of the development.

Within each development, the ONR will encourage the proposed home-owners to form co-operatives for the purchase of the required raw materials and, in case of need, permit these co-operatives to import the required raw materials. The ONR will allocate funds to these co-operatives to hire the relevant professionals, from the local private sector, to manage and control these activities.

RAW MATERIALS

The prospective home-owners will be allowed to draw-down raw materials and construct their homes, either through the pooled resources of the co-operatives or by labour contracts with private contractors. Here again, the relevant professionals will be available to the home-owner.

Mortgage funds at subsidised interest rates will be made available to prospective home-owners.

The ONR government will concentrate on homes for families who prefer apartment-type dwellings — e.g. transition housing for young people or older people with no depen-

dants living in the house. The family who will be living in the home will be directly involved in the construction of the home with the fullest backing of the ONR government."

(3) GENEVA OFFICE

The headline of the Sunday Guardian, November 21, 1982, reads as follows: "Geneva office to close." Now, read the 1981 ONR Manifesto, page 60: "The ONR is committed to the closing down of the office of the International Marketing Organisation in Geneva." Well done, Mr. Chambers.

(4) CARICOM

It is no secret that Trinidad's aloofness was to a large extent responsible for the decline of Caricom over the past seven years. Fortunately, Mr. Chambers and his Cabinet were able to refer to the ONR Manifesto,

pages 60-61. On page 61 we read: "The ONR will seek to revitalise and widen the framework of the present Caricom agreements. We affirm our commitment to our regional institutions while insisting that T & T take its rightful place as the logical leader, economically and structurally, of the region."

(5) GRENADA

During the 1981 election campaign the ONR's stand on Grenada was that we must talk to Maurice Bishop. For this we were jeered at and called communists, etc. Now it seems that Mr. Bishop's closet ally at the recent Caricom Heads of Government Confer-

ence was Mr. Chambers. We congratulate the Prime Minister for listening to our advice. I hope his party does not brand him communist.

(6) Tripartite Conference

The ONR in its manifesto called for the convening of a national tripartite conference "to examine all the issues related to effective industrial relations problem-solving in the country." This conference would examine the organisation of work in the country with a view to the implementation of a new style of management for all areas of activity. The ONR specifically desired that all sectors of the labour movement should participate in this conference. Unfortunately, this appeared on page 111 of the manifesto and, therefore, must have taken the Government some time to get to it. It did eventually though and initiated such a conference.

(7) Sport

We made it clear on page 136 of the ONR Manifesto that should we win the elections, we would establish a Ministry for Sport, Youth and Community Development. We did not win, but it was heartening to see that the Government did take our advice and establish such a Ministry.

These then have been the main achievements of the Government over the past year. It is truly encouraging to see its enthusiastic response to the plans of the ONR as manifested in our 1981 manifesto. What remains now for the Government to do is to begin to try to implement in the next four years as many of our recommendations as possible. There is no doubt about the realistic excellence of the ONR plans, but then does the PNM have the necessary expertise to operate them?

CSO: 3298/238

OWTU INVITES WORKERS, PUBLIC TO JOIN IN DAY OF SOLIDARITY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Dec 82 p 7

[Advertisement]

[Text] **FELLOW CITIZENS,**

As we are sure you are aware this country is in a state of economic and social crisis. The economic crisis results from a number of factors among them being the severe recession in Western economies which is affecting us because of the dependent relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Western economies; the crisis in the international oil industry orchestrated by the big oil companies and their political representatives in the West; economic policies pursued by business and Government which have further intertwined us into the crisis of the West.

The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union foresaw the problems the nation would suffer resulting particularly from the actions of the principal foreign Oil Companies operating in the country. In December 1978, we specifically drew the deteriorating situation at Texaco to the attention of the Government through the then Minister of Petroleum and Mines and the then Prime Minister. The Government responded by the setting up of a COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY into Texaco which to date has not even completed hearing (*only the Union has completed its evidence*). Throughout 1979, the Union campaigned for the nationalisation of Texaco and published numerous articles,

advertisements etc., for the benefit of the public. Since then, we have also constantly kept the Government informed by letters and meetings of the situation as it deteriorated further. Our latest efforts began in February 1982 with a letter to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and culminated on September 20th, 1982 with the submission of a detailed memorandum to the inter Ministerial team studying the oil industry.

The Union therefore has done all that can be reasonably expected of it. All the normal channels have been pursued but apparently to no avail. The crisis is no longer coming, it is very much here.

Resulting from the crisis, the employers in an effort to protect their interests, have wrought tremendous dislocation by retrenchment and threats of retrenchment. Already, workers in the oil industry, sugar industry, Government departments, manufacturing industry and on the Docks have been sent home. And more retrenchment is being threatened – 500 at BWIA, several thousands at Texaco, 2,000 at Caroni etc.

Over the past few weeks, developments in the Oil Industry and at Texaco in particular are giving cause for serious concern not only to our Union but also to the entire country. Texaco has intensified its economic destabilisation of the country and is threatening to close down the Pointe-a-Pierre Refinery BEFORE THE YEAR END if it does not get certain concessions (*reduction in taxation, voluntary agreement to reduce retirement age*) from the Government and the Union. Refinery throughput has again fallen, this time to 50,000 barrels per day, all drilling and well servicing work has come to a standstill in some of the producing fields and this will result in a drop in crude production; Government tax take is therefore affected. Additionally, because of Texaco's deliberate action, the country is now

importing L.P.G. and jet fuel from Venezuela and the supply of gasoline in Texaco's tank farm is down to two days only. On top of all this, some forty-four (44) Apprentices at the Texaco Trade School were given notice last week that they would be sent home at the end of this week. Other personnel in training are also earmarked for similar treatment. This is the latest evidence of Texaco's clearcut strategy of destabilisation.

This situation will cause severe repercussion throughout the country and will escalate the already critical social problems facing the nation. We refer here particularly to the well known fact that high unemployment leads to the breakdown of family life (*child abuse, wife abuse, drinking, separation,*) which affects not only the marriage partners but more seriously can psychologically or physically scar children for life. We also draw attention to increasing crimes of violence (*rape, murders, robberies*), *molestation of children; use of hard drugs (cocaine)*, dramatic increase of mental illness, suicides etc., that result from unemployment, frustration, unequal income distribution, high cost of living, bad housing and other economic factors. When one adds the deterioration in the nation's education system which is not gearing our youth for productive employment, the impact of Texaco's retrenchment programme becomes even more alarming.

These developments, coupled with the total refusal by T & TEC management to reinstate or re-engage the dismissed T & TEC ten (10), despite the efforts of the Minister of Labour, have led the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union to speed up the process of mobilisation for the NATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY which was mutually agreed upon by the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions. It was also agreed that the DAY OF SOLIDARITY

should be held before the budget debate. The Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions, also wrote the Prime Minister on October 7th, 1981, requesting a meeting with him to deal specifically with retrenchment and other critical issues affecting the country and the Labour Movement. The meeting is yet to be convened.

It is clearly time for all those concerned with the nation's development and future to demonstrate their concern by standing up for the people's human rights — the right to work; the right to a decent life; the right to a proper education; the right to housing etc.

The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, in keeping with its commitment to the national interest and in the spirit of the mutually agreed NATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY, is initiating such a DAY OF SOLIDARITY for December 11th 1982. This is an appropriate day because December 10th, is recognised by the United Nations as HUMAN RIGHTS DAY.

We can therefore, mark HUMAN RIGHTS DAY on December 11th, by our DAY OF SOLIDARITY with the theme "*DEFEND THE RIGHT TO WORK*", but also incorporating the defence of other fundamental rights.

We invite your organisation to join in this DAY OF SOLIDARITY in a meaningful way by encouraging members to attend the activities and by issuing a statement in support of the people on HUMAN RIGHTS DAY. We also request that the families (*spouse and children*) of members be involved in the DAY OF SOLIDARITY since the entire society is affected by the crisis.

Please feel free to communicate with us any ideas, suggestions on the programme for the Day which is to be held in Port of Spain. We look forward to your commitment to the cause of freedom and justice on this occasion.

ORGANISATIONS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DAY OF SOLIDARITY

Council of Progressive Trade Unions

Transport and Industrial Workers Union.

Bank and General Workers Union

Islandwide Canefarmers Trade Union

National Foodcrop Farmers Association

University & Allied Workers Union

West Indies Group of University Teachers

Students Guild, U.W.I.

Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress

Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union

Communication Workers Union

Public Services Association

Postmen's Union

National Union of Government and Federated Workers

Brotherhood of Industrial Workers

All Trinidad Sugar Estates & General Workers Trade Union

Sugar Boilers Association

Amalgamated Workers Union

Contractors & General Workers Union

Republic Bank Staff Association

Union of Commercial & Industrial Workers

Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association

Pan Trinbago

Drama Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Dance Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Writers Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Calypsonians Association

Inter-Religious Organisation

Christian Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

Caribbean Conference of Churches

*Aviation, Communication and Allied Workers
Union*

Amnesty International

Police Service Association

Fire Service Association

Prison Officers Association

Mayaro People's Committee

*Committee for the Abolition of the Death
Penalty*

Village Council & Community Organisations.

CSO: 3298/238

FEAR VOICED OF FORCES ACTING TO THWART LABOR UNITY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Dec 82 p 3

[Text] THE COUNCIL of Progressive Trade Unions has expressed concern about moves by certain parties to "ensure that there is no Labour unity."

In a letter to the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress, Senator Vernon Glean, the President of the CPTU, Mr. Cecil Paul, assured Congress of continued availability for dialogue and also asked that Congress join the CPTU for a Day of Solidarity on December 11. In the letter, Mr. Paul

said he had made several efforts, without success, to contact both the President and the General Secretary of the Congress and had written to Mr. Carl Tull requesting a meeting of the joint Mobilisation Committee. He received no reply and this he said was a "cause of great concern" to the CPTU.

Mr. Paul referred to the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) industrial dispute.

He said a report that the CPTU was absent from three sessions of the Tripartite Talks, and that the

CPTU had requested the Labour Congress to withdraw from the talks, was "misleading, wicked and mischievous."

He said that the reason for the CPTU's withdrawal from the talks was the continued dismissal of T&TEC workers after the agreement had been reached with the Minister of Labour that there was to be no victimisation of workers on their return to their jobs.

The President of the Congress was informed of the reasons, he said, and also informed that several units of the CPTU had called for withdrawal from the talks.

CSO: 3298/238

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF ERODING POWERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Dec 82 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
LOCAL GOVERN-
MENT is fast be-
coming meaningless
and unless something
is done positively it
would be better to
close down such
bodies.

This view was expressed
yesterday by Councillor
Latchman Seecharan,
(ULF) of the Victoria
County Council, who
accused the Central
Government of "doing
everything possible to erode
the authority of the Local
Government bodies and of
only giving lip service to
several acts passed in
Parliament aimed at
decentralisation."

Councillor Seecharan said
that acts governing school
feeding, homes for the aged,
maintenance of minor
water courses,
maintenance of special
works projects that were
completed, and distribution
of truck-borne water which
were passed in Parliament
giving the council authority
for their management,
maintenance and or opera-
tion became useless. This
was because "absolutely no
releases have been given by
the government for any of
these subject areas."

He said that what was
worst was the fact that the

council had spent received
both in 1981 and 1982 only
\$50,000 for the distribution
of truck-borne water and
had taken out of its general
funds \$550,000 and \$822,000
respectively, for the pur-
pose, and had not been re-
funded.

On the contrary, the
Ministry of Local Govern-
ment had demanded a re-
turn of \$1,000,000 from the
council so that rather than
refund what was spent

because of the absence of
releases, the government
had further limited the op-
erations of the council.

He said that the council
has not been able to es-
tablish a single recreation
ground in 15 years.

A further handicap in the
establishment of recreation
grounds, the councillor
stated, centred around the
"red tap."

Mr Seecharan said that
despite the heavy increases
in salaries, wages and costs
of materials, administra-
tive officers of the council
were still limited to award
contracts not exceeding
\$250, while the council's ten-
ders board could award con-
tracts of only up to \$2,000.

"Surely if the govern-
ment was serious of making
local government bodies
effective and meaningful,
this practice would have
been changed long ago,"
said Mr. Seecharan.

BRIEFS

IDB GROWTH PREDICTIONS--In a special chapter on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago, the report of the Inter-American Development Bank said that the 1982-86 outlook is for a continuation of strong growth in real GDP, averaging 5.0 per cent a year during the forecast period, even under the assumption of constant world oil prices in real terms. The balance of payments should grow stronger as the Government's emphasis on export-oriented, energy-intensive industries pays off. Most of these industries, including petrochemicals, will be heavy users of natural gas, of which the island has extensive reserves. The report is on the economic and social progress in Latin America. Significant diversification of the economy should be attained during the forecast period--said the report--with the construction of a modern iron and steel plant, liquefied natural gas, methanol, and fertiliser plants, and an aluminum smelter. As the world economy recovers, markets for these products are expected to expand. The Government is also planning to modernise agriculture by constructing feeder roads and fostering research and extension services. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Dec 82 p 4]

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END